NetworkWorld



The buzz at Interop. . .

ATM and Gigabit Ethernet camps collide

Start-up preps price-busting ATM gear.

By Jodi Cohen

Atlanta

Convinced that ATM is too pricey for your PC? Start-up Avidia Systems, Inc. is looking to change your mind by offering ATM switches for \$199 per port.

Largely because of cost, ATM

ACX-1200: 120-port 25M bit/sec ATM access switch with up to 10 155M bit/sec ATM uplinks and a variety of WAN interfaces

ACX-100: 12-port 25M bit/sec ATM workgroup

switch with 1 155M bit/sec ATM uplink

ACX-300: 36-port 25M bit/sec ATM

departmental switch with 3

155M bit/sec

ATM uplinks

AVIDIA'S ATM SWITCH FAMILY

has been considered appropriate for only high-speed backbone applications. But Avidia's 25M bit/sec ATM switches — which will be on display here at Net-World+Interop 96 this week make ATM affordable for the desktop, according to industry observers.

At \$199 per desktop or LAN server connection, the Avidia ATM switches are a quarter of the cost of competitor FORE Systems, Inc.'s desktop devices and a third less than switches from Madge Networks,

"This is extremely aggressive pricing," said Rick Malone, principal Vertical Systems See ATM, page 161

3Com backs both high-speed options.

By Jodi Cohen

Atlanta

Unlike some vendors that want customers to choose between ATM and Gigabit Ethernet, 3Com Corp. doesn't really seem

Both ATM and Gigabit Ethernet will figure prominently in 3Com's announcement of 17 high-speed switches that promise to boost network capacity for packet-and cell-based LANs. The switches, to be unveiled at Net-See 3Com, page 158

AT&T alliance may be first to offer international ATM service. Page 159.

Gigabit Ethernet Alliance wins over ATM stalwarts IBM and FORE Systems.

By Michael Cooney and Jodi Cohen

Atlanta

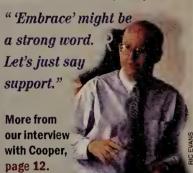
The fantasy of ATM has met the reality of Gigabit Ethernet.

Two of the industry's biggest ATM bigots — FORE Systems, Inc. and IBM — this week will join the Gigabit Ethernet Alliance, sending one of the strongest signals yet that vendors must support both high-speed technologies to compete.

Sources close to both companies confirmed that FORE and IBM will join the alliance at this week's NetWorld+Interop 96 here. The alliance was formed in May to promote the development, standardization and rapid

FORE-TUNE TELLER

Asked whether FORE Systems will embrace Gigabit Ethernet, the ATM leader's CEO Eric Cooper says:



introduction of high-speed Ethernet products. Membership in the group now totals around 60, including Cisco Systems, Inc., Bay Networks, Inc., 3Com Corp., Compaq Computer Corp. and See Alliance, page 158

New Novell prez meets the press

Marengi attempts to put end to Novell's defensive image.



As a sales executive, how are you qualified to lead Novell? Will you meet with

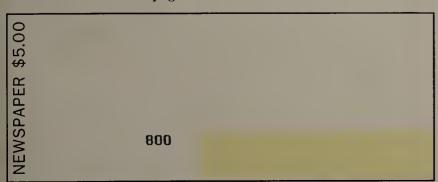
Bill Gates? How does it feel to be put on the defensive constantly despite your No. 1 ranking in the NOS market?

Newly anointed Novell, Inc. President Joe Marengi fielded these and other feisty questions posed by Network World Senior Writer Christine Burns when they met in New York last week.

See Novell, page 160



On acquisition rumors, Joe Marengi says 'We are positioning the company as a total stand-alone."



Access Network World Fusion using the number in yellow. See page 5 for details.

Internet health report: condition serious

By Charles Bruno



If you're steering some of your organization's mission-critical applications onto the Internet's infor-

mation highway, you'd better turn around now — while you still can.

Network World has just concluded a monthlong investigation into the health of the Internet that of Internet service providers and the other of Network World readers — plus interviews with ISPs, users and leading experts. The conclusion: The 'Net is not reliable enough today to handle many strategic business applications. Further,

Continued on page 104

Bill Norton and Craig Labovitz of Merit Systems, both professional Internet statisticians, say Net performance has dipped since the NSFNet break-up and congestion is getting worse.

New FCC phone rules could save you big dough

By David Rohde and Tim Greene

A major consultancy is about to drop a dime on how to save big money on your long-distance bill: become a local phone com-

The Yankee Group consultancy in Boston plans next week to push the strategy as a way to save hundreds of thousands of dollars per year. But it could be too good to be true, other experts cautioned.

Yankee Group President Howard Anderson says that by becoming local exchange carriers (LEC), users can legally duck switched access fees to regional Bell operating company networks.

Corporate telecom chiefs could become heroes avoiding See Phone rules, page 158

ONE DAY YOUR LOCAL

PHONE LINES

MAY BECOME

SEVERED,



BUT THANKS TO

THE TCG SELF-HEALING NETWORK

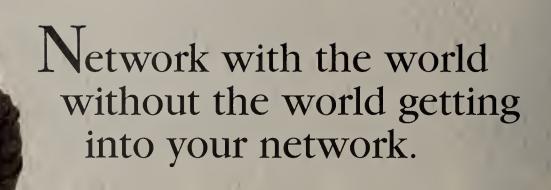
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Week



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News+

Link to Network World Fusion for daily reports from the floor of NetWorld+Interop.

- The Internet: How congested is the 'Net? Download video maps showing daily congestion and tools for measuring it on your own and read comments by the people who run various parts of the 'Net. DocFinder:
- Novell: Read the complete transcript of our interview with new Novell President Joe Marengi. DocFinder:
- ATM: Grab the complete transcript of our interview with FORE CEO Eric Cooper on the challenges facing ATM. DocFinder: 9608.
- Desktop ATM: Read articles on 25M bit/sec ATM plans from FORE and Madge and take a look at two analyses of how ATM will fare on the LAN against technologies such as Gigabit Ethernet. DocFinder: 9612.
- FRADs: Download a primer to enterprise use of frame relay and see what to consider before moving SNA traffic onto frame relay. DocFinder: 9604.
- Symmetric multiprocessing: Read vendor white papers that explain their SMP strategies. DocFinder: 9602.
- Electronic commerce: Read up on the new joint venture by IBM and several banks to move banking onto the 'Net and download white papers from two competing efforts. DocFinder: 9611.



NetRef

- ATM products: Download a chart (in WinWord 6.0 or PDF) with extensive product spec and pricing info for the ATM products discussed in this week's Buyer's Guide (page 90). DocFinder: 9601.
- Client/server messaging: Read what beta users of Novell's GroupWise 5.0 think. DocFinder: 9607.

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NetworkWorld

An IDG Publication Lotus Notes replicated by Java start-up. Page 6

News

- Microsoft preps more robust editions of its Exchange messaging software.
- Internet debate highlights domain name issues.
- IBM gives IS new mainframes to chew on. 10
- **FORE CEO** Eric Cooper stands up for ATM. 12
- Coming next year: 56K bit/sec modems.
- MCI bundles local and long-distance services for business customers; targets midsize firms with outsourcing service.
- 16 Vendors at Internet commerce show focus on secure electronic selling.

WANs & Internetworking

- Racal Datacom makes for ay into FRAD market.
- **Interop: RAScom launches** ISDN dial-up server.
- Lucent adds ATM dynamic bandwidth allocation to Definity voice traffic.
- **DSU/CSU vendor** targets WAN management.

Carrier Services

- **33 AT&T lets** government workers phone home.
- **MCI to roll out** integrated billing platform.
- Sprint releases real-time customer mgmt. service.

Local Networks

- **41 HP, Dell debut** server lines with attractive pricing.
- **Interop:** Microsoft announces server-based multimedia capabilities.
- **OS/2 Warp Server SMP** packs a wallop, users say.

Client/Server Applications

- Novell continues uphill battle in messaging war with release of GroupWise 5.
- **Praxis unveils** tools for managing data movement enterprisewide.
- Object Design database gives desktops more Web

Intranets & the 'Net

- IBM, under CEO Lou Gerstner (right), and 15 banks team in cyberbanking effort.
- 76 Interop: CyberGuard releases new firewall.

Technology Update

83 Transparent LAN service discloses connectivity option.

Management Strategies

Seagate targets enterprise management

market with eclectic product mix. Page 8

Stanford Telecom ready to offer shrinkwrapped OpenView app. Page 👀

GigaLabs unveils PCI-based technology

for high-speed server connections. Rag

127 Coopers & Lybrand's chief knowledge officer talks about why the firm created her new position.

INTEROP 96

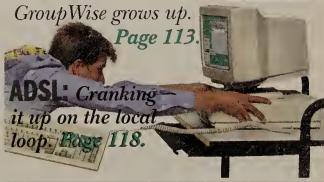
Opinions

- **32** Scott Bradner gets fired up about firewalls.
- Dave Kearns vents his frustration over Microsoft browser and directory directions.
- Daniel Blum says meta directories could clean up the problem of incompatible directories.
- Editorial: ADSL makes sense.
- **Thomas Nolle** ponders intranet management.
- **Edwin Mier** offers tips for switching to switches.
- Pro/Con debate over ADSL.
- Dave Buerger: Users face software price hikes from nervous vendors.
- Mark Gibbs: 'A thought that makes me hazy, is it me or are others crazy?'

Features

Buyer's Guide: With a palette full of products, you can start painting your ATM masterpiece. Page 90.

Review: Novell's



Network Help Desk. Page 83. Message queue. Letters to the editor. Page 87. Editorial and advertiser indexes. Page 158.

NetworkWorld's Mission: To provide news and analysis that help network IS professionals deliver the networkcomputing infrastructure and distributed applications required to meet evolving business needs.

News briefs, September 16, 1996

Interop: CA plays it safe

Computer Associates International, Inc. this week at Net-World+Interop 96 will show its agnostic side by pledging support for both industry-sanctioned and Microsoft Corp.-driven desktop management. CA will join the Desktop Management Task Force and formally endorse the group's Desktop Management Interface specification as an industry standard for managing PCs. At the same time, CA will cover its bases by reiterating support for Microsoft's HyperMedia Management Schema, a blueprint for representing objects that can be managed from a Web browser.

Interop: NIA opens its doors

The trio of vendors that formed the Network Interoperability Alliance (NIA) — IBM, 3Com Corp. and Bay Networks, Inc. — this week will welcome four new members at NetWorld+Interop 96. Among the additions will be Xylan Corp. and Cascade Communications Corp., sources said. The group is also slated to unveil its testing lab, which will operate out of the University of New Hampshire, where interoperability testing is already taking place. The companies formed the NIA earlier this year to help accelerate implementation and development of existing standards for multivendorinteroperability.

Interop: Sun plots SEMinal event

At long last, SunSoft, Inc. is expected to unveil Solstice Enterprise Manager (SEM) 2.0 at this week's NetWorld+Interop 96 show. SEM 2.0 is an end-user version of SunSoft's high-end, object-oriented network and systems management platform that incorporates DiMONS 3G technology from the former NetLabs, Inc. SEM 2.0 was initially scheduled to ship last December.

Microsoft vs. Netscape: Round. . .?

Microsoft Corp. and Netscape Communications Corp. may wind up on opposite sides of an Internet standards battle again — this time over directory services for multimedia conferencing users. Microsoft recently announced its User Location Service (ULS), a directory that helps voice and data conferencing users find each other over an Internet Protocol network by keeping track of their IP addresses. Microsoft has proposed to the Internet Engineering Task Force that ULS' underlying protocol be adopted as an extension to the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) standard. Netscape, which just released a beta version of its LDAP-compliant directory server, does not support ULS, however, and will unveil an alternative later this year, according to a company official.

More products streaming from Netscape

Netscape Communications Corp. last week began a private beta test of a streaming server, according to a company official. The server, code-named Salmon, will be beta-tested by major entertainment companies that already use Netscape's Web servers, said Michael Po, director of Live Media at Netscape. The client, codenamed Tront, will be a plug-in for the Navigator browser.

It's about time

Back in July, Microsoft Corp. first announced plans to serve up its ActiveX technologies to a standards body, claiming it would hold a meeting with customers and stakeholders to discuss the best approach. After pushing off that meeting date more than once, the company finally appears to have settled on Oct. I in New York. Invitees include Hewlett-Packard Co., Intel Corp., SAP AG and Digital Equipment Corp.

ADSL blows into Windy City

InterAccess Co. last week began offering the first commercially available Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) service that gives multimegabit bandwidth over standard voice telephone lines — but it's expensive. Hardware costs about \$1,750, the installation costs \$1,000 and a 1.5M bit/sec link from the Internet costs \$1,000 per month. You can also link to a corporate network for \$1,000 per month. Availability is limited to within three miles of the intersection of Canal and Madison streets in downtown Chicago.

Microsoft aims higher with Exchange

By Barb Cole

Austin, Texas

Microsoft Corp. has big plans to make its Exchange messaging system easier to deploy across large corporate networks.

The company sketched out an aggressive upgrade plan at its Exchange Deployment Conference here last week that includes two releases next year, following on the heels of the Internetheavy Version 4.5, which is due by year-end.

The first 1997 release, which is expected to be called Version 5.0 and issued by midyear, will significantly improve the product's scalability, according to Greg Lobdell, group product manager for messaging and Internet services at Microsoft. It will boost the current 16G-byte storage limit on Exchange mailboxes to 16 terabytes and improve its support for Windows

NT clustering and symmetric multiprocessing hardware, he

The company will also add workflow enhancements to next year's releases. Basic hooks for



Kirk Reeves and Ned Studt, system administrators for the Kentucky Department of Education, will migrate about 25,000 Microsoft Mail users to Exchange.

workflow and interfaces for third-party authoring tools are planned for the early part of the year, to be followed in the second half with a server-based scripting engine and support for the creation of more complex workflow applications.

Despite Microsoft's effort to sketch out a long-term vision for Exchange, conference attendees were mostly interested in Version

Microsoft is expected to officially announce it this week at NetWorld+Interop 96.

The new version will add support for Post Office Protocol 3, HTTP, Lightweight Directory Access Protocol and Net News Transfer Protocol. Internet Messaging Access Protocol 4 support is slated to begin beta testing around year-end, Lobdell said.

In addition, the new version will include Web Services, which means that end users can access their mailboxes and schedules from Exchange using Web browsers.

> Previously, Microsoft offered See Exchange, page 160

Notes faces Java-based upstart

Sanga Pages, the first application environment to support JDBC database spec, also boasts database replication.

By Ellen Messmer

Atlanta

Make way, Lotus Notes. Here comes Sanga Pages, the first Javabased development environment for creating workgroup applications that includes replication and access to corporate databases,

+INTEROP 96 the company claimed.

Z ANNIVERSARY

This week at NetWorld+ Interop here, start-up Sanga Inter-

national Corp., based in Burlington, Mass., will launch Pages, the first Java-based application to take advantage of the Web-based database access standard, Java Database Connectivity (JDBC).

With JDBC, finalized by Sun Microsystems, Inc.'s JavaSoft division this March, a Java-enabled browser can access and update SQL-based corporate databases.

Sanga — which in the Bud-

company that fosters what Chief **Executive Officer Shane Maine** unabashedly calls "the spirit of pre-IBM Notes."

And if Sanga Pages looks like the Java reincarnation of Notes, well, that's not surprising, since Mark Luccier, once a Lotus project engineer and now Sanga's chief architect, designed it with Shane's twin

brother, Shaun, Sanga's chief technology offi-

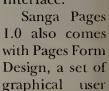
Bell Canada's Torontobased Bell Sygma Systems Management division, which

is beta-testing Pages, is getting into the Sanga spirit.

"Like Lotus Notes, I can replicate with Sanga Pages," said Wilby McKnight, a systems administrator who developed a Java-based trouble-ticketing sysdhist tradition is a meditative—tem with Pages. "With the JDBC healing group — wants to be a interfaces, we just point to a database, and it's up. We can use Java applets to hook into any of our

Java's much-ballyhooed platform independence lets Mc-Knight write his Pages application once and run it on any of the Unix systems, VAXes, Linux workstations or PCs in his divi-

> sion. Pages includes a mail system that supports several protocols, cluding Post Office Protocol 3, Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, and Messaging Application Programming Interface.



interface design components for custom applications or templates for data viewing. The Sanga product suite, available now, is being sold either as a \$995 Developer Kit or a \$1,795 bundled package called Intranet WebServer.

Identical twins,

Shane (above)

Maine, this week

introduced their

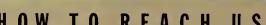
and Shaun

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Conference mulls future of domain name system

By Chris Nerney

Cambridge, Mass.

The rickety domain name system upon which the Internet currently is based will be crushed in the rapid commercialization of cyberspace, unless something is done—and soon.

The Internet leaders and experts who attended a conference at Harvard Uni-

Since 1993, registrations for names in all top-level domains — .com, .net, .org, .gov and .edu — have been handled by a private company, Network Solutions, Inc. (NSI) of Herndon, Va., for the National Science Foundation's Internet Network Information Center (Inter-NIC) project.

This agreement, argue many mem-

said Don Heath, president of the Internet Society (ISOC). "The Internet is so much bigger than .com or .net. This will facilitate growth."

While his draft does not actively address the deepening legal quagmire involving domain names and trademark rights, Postel has said the existence of business-related domains beyond .com could help avoid costly disputes and lawsuits by companies claiming infringement.

Critics of Postel's plan say that, at best, it naively ignores trademark issues and, at worst, would exacer-

bate them by introducing more points of

"Say there are three or four other top-level domain registries that start registering trademarked names. Instead of having one conflagration, you're going to have several," said Tony Rutkowski, vice president for Internet business

development at General Magic, Inc. of Sunnyvale, Calif., and former executive director of ISOC, in an interview.

Rutkowski presented his own proposal to the Kennedy School conference, urging the merger of InterNIC and IANA into a nonprofit, nar-

rowly tailored international body that would devise necessary procedures and domain name dispute resolution mech-

Rutkowksi and other critics even question IANA's authority to arbitrarily

revise the Domain Name Service (DNS).

Robert Shaw, adviser on global information infrastructure for the Interna-Telecommunication (ITU) in Geneva, said the "legal foundation for a group like IANA to do this is a house of cards.

IANA's trustee role in the Internet community will not help the group withstand pressure from litigious corporations that do not care for Postel's plan. "The problem is that registries are a multimillion-dollar business," Shaw said. "Someone will chal-Heath; ITU's Shaw; lenge this." Shaw proposed to attendees a way to capitalize on the

increasing market value of prestigious domains. "You could generate a tremendous amount of revenue by auctioning off top-level domains," he said.

Clockwise from top:

Internet Society's

General Magic's

Rutkowski.

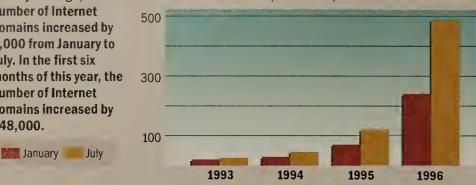
Other attendees of the conference expressed concern that the endorsement of Postel's plan by ISOC made it a fait accompli. Heath reiterated that, despite the imminent formation of an ad hoc committee to process applications for new registries, "the IANA draft is a draft."

One panelist warned that efforts to sustain any kind of DNS as a 'Net directory invited perpetual legal problems.

"We're putting ourselves into the middle of a fight we don't need to be in," said Scott Bradner, a consultant with Harvard University's Office of Information Technology. "The longer we continue to go along on this tack that the DNS is the answer, the more fun the lawyers are going to have."

THEY KEEP GROWING AND GROWING

Three years ago, the number of Internet domains increased by 5,000 from January to July. In the first six months of this year, the number of Internet domains increased by 248,000.



Total Internet domains (in thousands)

SOURCE: NETWORK WIZARDS, MENLO PARK, CALIF, (http://www.nw.com

versity's Kennedy School of Government last week on the coordination and administration of the Internet almost universally agreed on that point.

That, however, is where the consensus ended. In its place arose a sprawling, sometimes contentious, two-day debate fueled by a collective sense of urgency and a flurry of proposals for handling doniain name allocation problems and legal challenges.

Last week's conference was dominated by a man who was not there — Jon Postel of the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), whose recently announced plan to add top-level 'Net domains and award licenses to competing domain name registries was the reference point for virtually all discussion.

bers of the Internet community, has given a lucrative government-mandated monopoly to a company ill-equipped to handle the deluge of domain name requests (see graphic).

Postel's plan would create more top-level domains, with the new registries having exclusive rights to three each. As many as two dozen new registries could be licensed in the U.S., with a similar number abroad. Supporters of the

Postel draft say competition in the toplevel domain registration business will benefit the 'Net.

"Competition is good. Period. It generally lowers prices, it gives better service, and that's one of the objectives,"



software division.

New applications such as a centralized database to store and access enterprisewide data will also be born from SEA.

"We are combining the myriad products we have for desktop and workgroup management with our enterprise management products to create a single

Seagate pulls together a suite for network enterprise management

By Michael Cooney

Seagate Technology, Inc. this week will meld its disparate products into a package it hopes will

land squarely atop the client/server management heap.

Seagate Enterprise Architecture (SEA) is an object-based systems and network manage- Z ANNIVERSARY ment framework from

which will spring applications and services designed to ease the management of distributed net resources. SEA will integrate the products and technology the vendor has purchased from eight network, storage and sys-

tems management firms since 1995. These include software distribution, network and system backup, topology, net configura-

tion, job scheduling and local storage management applications.

SEA will rely heavily on technology Seagate purchased from Calypso Software Systems, Inc. in May.

Calypso's Atrium and Maestro's products enable application monitoring, problem diagnosis and automated responses to application snafus, said Bob Quillin, vice president of product management for Seagate's

Seagate-worthy acquisitions

When acquired **Hollstic Systems** Information management June 1996 **Calypso Software Systems** Applications management May 1996 **OnDemand Software** Network management **April 1996 Arcada Holdings** Storage management February 1996 Creative Interaction Technologies Network management May 1995 **Frye Computer Systems** May 1995 Network management **NetLabs** March 1995 Network management **Network Computing** Network management February 1995

SEA will include existing Seagate products as well, such as the Desktop Management Suite, which supports software distribution, virus protection and similar features.

framework for managing highly distributed servers, workgroups and clients," Quillin said. "We will be targeting Windows NT enterprises first, and other platforms will follow."

The company has bold plans for SEA products and expects to compete effectively with management heavyweights such as IBM/Tivoli and Computer Associates International, Inc. as well as Novell, Inc.

"Microsoft and others in this area don't have the variety of license management, software utilization and software distribution capabilities that Seagate will have all in one package," said Tim Wilson, a senior consultant with the Decisys, Inc. consultancy in Sterling, Va.

Seagate should also run into McAfee, which this week is introducing a suite of management applications focused on NT networks (see story, page 43).

SEA-enabled products will be available byyear-end. Pricing was not disclosed.

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IBM turns up power, heats up networking on Big Iron

IBM's Lamberti says

the new mainframes

network concerns.

address scalability and

By Michael Cooney and James Niccolai

Boston

1BM last week announced mainframes that will perform better and deal more effectively with the Internet.

Among the enhancements to the System/390 server line are:

A more fault-tolerant version of its TCP/IP for MVS package

New system automation features

Internet-ready applications and operating system software for its

By most accounts, at least half of IBM's installed mainframes are running TCP/IP, so with that in mind, IBM continues to enhance TCP/IP for MVS with high-performance features. With Release 3.2, IBM has

added support for high-performance native TCP/IP Sockets applications, as well as interfaces to link current DB2 and CICS transaction applications to TCP/IP net users.

IBM's new server lines include the S/390 Parallel Enterprise Server Generation 3 (S/390 G-3) and the S/390 Multiprise 2000, both of which are expected to be available in October, said Hermann Lamberti,

vice president of worldwide marketing for IBM's S/390 division.

Both server lines are powered by CMOS microprocessors, which IBM claims will save companies as much as 65% on operating costs, thanks largely to their air-cooling systems.

The S/390 G-3, geared toward larger businesses, is available with up to 10 processors and

offers almost double the power of existing CMOS servers, Lambertisaid.

To secure data transmission across the Internet and intranets, IBM announced two products, the Internet Connection Secure Server, featuring support for standards such as Secure Sockets Layer and Secure HTTP;

and OS/390 Internet BonusPak II for deploying existing applications over the Web, and including secure Web browsers, Common Gateway Interface code and sample applications.

IBM will begin beta-testing Java support in the fourth quar-

For more information, contact IBM at (914) 765-1900.

Niccolai is a correspondent at IDG News Service.

ATM network management gap filled

By Jim Duffy

Reston, Va.

Out of the lab and onto the shelf.

Two years after it began testing an ATM network management application with the Air Force and Defense Information Systems Administration Agency

(DISA), Stanford Telecommunications, Inc. is just about ready to shrink-wrap it for the rest of the world.

The software, called NetCoach, will provide an integrated view of

the performance of an ATM network built with switches from multiple vendors. Most management packages from ATM switch vendors only work with a single vendor's offerings.

The distributed NetCoach application also includes an inference engine that not only makes it easier to ferret out the cause of a network problem but actually suggests remedial

Stanford Telecommunications (S-TEL) is currently hammering out deals with some of the industry's biggest players to bulk up NetCoach's multivendor capabilities and to have ATM switch vendors market the product. The vendors include Bay Networks, Inc., Cisco Systems, Inc., FORE Systems, Inc., General DataComm, Inc. and Newbridge Networks, Inc., said

Wayne Fuller, department managerat S-TEL.

At the very least, S-TEL hopes to announce the Fore arrangement at this week's Net-World+Interop 96 show in Atlanta, Fuller said.

"These guys are getting beat

+INTEROP'96

around the face and eyes [by users, asking,] 'How do I manage it? How do I configure the virtual network and reconfigure it based on utilization?" he said.

NetCoach runs on

Hewlett-Packard Co.'s Open-View management platform under SunSoft, Inc.'s Solaris operating system.

As part of the switch vendor alliances, S-TEL gains access to the proprietary Management Information Bases (MIB) of those vendors switches. Net-Coach translates MIB data into a common format and presents it on a Motif interface so users have a single management environment for a multivendor ATM net-

"When we were looking around for a network management capability that could work a mix of ATM switches, we found there weren't any," said Robert Sims, former director of the ARPA/DISA Joint Project Office (JPO). "S-TEL helped us out."

NetCoach is managing ARPA/DISA JPO's intercontinental T-3 ATM network that stretches from Hawaii to England and is built with Fore and Cisco LightStream switches, Sims said.

The NetCoach inference engine reads network performance data from NetCoach's Oracle Corp. database and uses predefined rules — such as dependencies between the Fore and Cisco switch components to attempt to identify, correlate and diagnose failures and system degradations (NW, Sept. 12, 1994, page 1).

If degradation is detected, NetCoach's performance management capability can suggest network topology changes, including virtual network recon-

Put me in, NetCoach

Features of Stanford Telecommunications' NetCoach ATM management tool

- ▶ Proactive fault and performance management
- Consolidated support of heterogeneous environments
- Correlated alarms and trap messages
- ▶ Multiple-site management
- Guided network planning and resource

figuration, to improve throughput and maintain service levels. This performance data can feed NetCoach's simulation engine, which models network activity so managers can balance switch workloads.

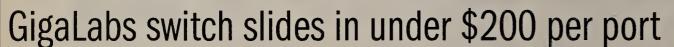
NetCoach's inference engine may actually turn out to be a disadvantage for the product because it could make it too pricey for off-the-shelf sale, observers said.

"You have a certain amount of artificial intelligence capabilities built into this product and that at least has connotations of being expensive and hard to maintain," said Jill Huntington-Lee, manager of new business development at SNMP Research International, Inc. "Some people might not consider the product because they have some concerns [about that]."

And even though NetCoach runs on the distributed version of OpenView — Release 4.1 — it does not use OpenView 4.1's distributed capabilities, Fuller said.

"The problem is it's oriented toward IP assets and it's [looking at] a subset of all information the topology data," Fuller said. "We really need more flexibility than that."

NetCoach is priced from \$10,000 to \$40,000 and will be available nextyear.



By Jodi Cohen

Atlanta

Start-up GigaLabs, Inc. will use NetWorld+Interop 96 here to show off a pair of protocol-independent switches that deliver gigabit throughput at Ethernet switching prices.

The company, which has its roots in the supercomputing industry, last week rolled out the GigaStar 100 workgroup switch that provides dedicated Ethernet to 128 end stations for less than \$200 per port. Also, Giga-Labs is giving away its new Giga-Star 2000 backbone chassis as a trial offer when customers buy \$15,000 worth of other equipment.

But price isn't the only interesting thing about the GigaLab gear, industry observers said. The highlight of the company's switches is its PCl-based Giga-Pipe technology for direct server connectivity at gigabit speeds. GigaPipe allows customers to

deliver big-time bandwidth to critical network resources, according to Kon Leong, president of GigaLabs.

When a GigaPipe connects to

a standard PCI-based server, it extends the PCI channel, effectively importing the PCI bus into the switch itself, Leong explained.

"This is the first switch vendor that I've spoken with that really is looking at The GigaStar 200 providing high-per- nine-slotswitch can support formance, low price- 1.6Gbit/secbandwidth per per-port switching slot, for a total throughput of 14.4Gbit/sec. capability that not

only spans network standards like Ethernet, but also some very key I/O standards," said John Morency, principal at the Registry, Inc., a consultancy in Newton, Mass. "This is very unique."

The company's GigaStar 100 is a five-slot chassis for work-

groups or departments. It has a 1G bit/sec backplane and can support 32 switched, full-duplex Ethernet ports, as well as a choice of ATM, Fast Ethernet, FDDI or

SCSI uplinks.

For the backbone, GigaLabs offers its GigaStar 2000 protocol-transparent LAN switch. The nine-slot chassis delivers 1.6G bit/sec bandwidth through each of its slots, for a total of 14.4G bit/ sec switching capacity. The bandwidth from each 1.6G bit/sec slot can sup-

port four full-duplex 100M bit/sec Fast Ethernet connections, one ATM or FDDI uplink, or it can be cascaded to as many as 128 dedicated Etherent desktop connections.

GigaLabs also plans to support token-ring and Gigabit



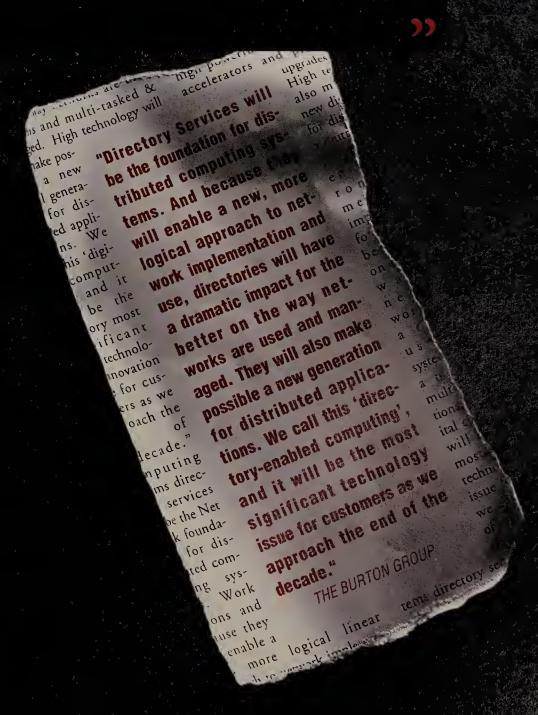
The GigaStar 100 workgroup switch includes ATM and Fast Ethernet uplinks as well as a 1.6G bit/sec fat pipe for linking to servers.

Ethernet interfaces by year-end. In addition, features such as virtual LANs and IP switching will be available next quarter.

Morency said he was also impressed by GigaLabs claim that the GigaStar 100 has a latency of about 750 nanoseconds. "I have not heard anybody quote a switching latency in that range....That's incredibly low,"

Pricing for the GigaStar 100 chassis is \$1,595. The GigaStar 2000 switch lists for \$15,000, but is free for a limited time as an introductory offer. Also, Giga-Pipe is priced at \$1,995. All products will be available at the end of next month.

©GigaLabs: (800) 447-7498.



What's in store for FORE?

CEO Cooper addresses Gigabit Ethernet and other challenges ahead for the ATM leader.



Eric Cooper helped found ATM market leader FORE Systems, Inc. and, as

the company's chief executive officer, is leading FORE as it faces the challenges of Gigabit Ethernet and other emerging technologies, as well as new competitors. *Network World* Senior Writer Jodi Cohen recently spoke with Cooper about FORE's plan of attack.

Some industry observers say the biggest threat to the major internetworking vendors right now is FORE taking over the ATM market. Do you think companies such as 3Com Corp. and Cabletron Systems, Inc. are supporting Gigabit Ethernet purely to stall ATM, allowing them to be more competitive?

I don't think so. Doing Gigabit Ethernet is a simple and, from a marketing point of view, attractive thing to do. It sounds like Ethernet. If you peek under the covers, it's not very much like Ethernet. I've read a number of customer quotes that say, "I'll deploy Gigabit Ethernet because I already understand Ethernet." Well, if they understood it, they would realize how different Gigabit Ethernet was. The ironic thing is that LAN emulation over



ATM is more compatible with Ethernet than Gigabit Ethernet is. People don't realize this because it doesn't have Ethernet in the name, but if you look at [ATM] at a technical level, it's true. It has the same frame formats, supports the right range of packet sizes, uses the same wiring.

FORE is just joining the Gigabit Ethernet Alliance, which now boasts more than 60 members. Will FORE wholeheartedly embrace the technology?

Embrace might be a strong word. Let's just say support. Our goal is to allow ATM to be integrated with the networks that customers have and are deploy-

ing now and in the future. If Gigabit Ethernet is one of the technologies that customers are deploying, then connecting Gigabit Ethernet to ATM will be part of FORE's future.

Gigabit Ethernet proponents question what benefit an ATM

PAR FOR THE COURSE

When not in the office, Cooper enjoys spending time with his family and is also tackling the game of golf. Here's what Cooper had to say about his new hobby:

"I'm trying to learn to play golf and I'm getting plenty of golf jokes about the name of the company, FORE. Actually, there's a golf company called Ping — a networking term — and so maybe we should switch names with them."

backbone brings to an all-Ethernet LAN environment? How do you respond?

I would question whether you can build an all-Ethernet backbone. The technologies that have been put on the table — 100M and 1G bit/sec Ethernet — do not suffice to build an efficient, large-scale backbone network, simply because all they are talking about is bridging. And you can't build a backbone out of bridges. That war was fought 15 years ago. Some people claim that there is something magical coming that makes Gigabit Ethernet better. I'll believe it when I see it. ATM backbones will be the way people connect their Fast Ethernet switches and Gigabit Ethernet switches, if they are deployed.

You just mentioned ATM as a means of linking Ethernet switches. Does FORE still see switched and ATM LANs as complementary, or has that view changed somewhat since cutting ATM prices to compete with alternative technologies?

We still see LAN switching and ATM switching as complementary — in fact, now more than ever. It's clearer that most of our opportunities are in multiple-level switched-based networks. Those almost invariably include LAN switching integrated with ATM. The pricing moves that we've gone through have been consistent through our whole company history. We've lowered prices on ATM

connectivity year by year by 40% to 50%, and we're going to continue to do that. That's what you need to do if you have any hope of ATM becoming a mass-market technology.

Not long ago, FORE had the ATM market all to itself, but now lots of vendors have joined the market. Which competitors do you worry about most and why?

In the LAN space, our chief competitor is Cisco. It's partly because they have ATM product offerings, but far more importantly, it's because of Cisco's presence in that space across the board. Often, it's not their ATM products we're competing against, but rather their relationship with a customer, and they often try to delay or suggest alternatives to the deployment of ATM. 3Com and Bay have also invested in ATM, but FORE doesn't bump into them as often as we do Cisco.

The other main market segment for us is the WAN space, including sales to private widearea networks as well as competitive access providers, Internet service providers and telcos. In this space, we not only offer our own ASX-1000 product, but also have a key partnership with Northern Telecom. Our strongest competitors are Cisco, through its acquisition of Strata-Com, and Cascade. And to a lesser extent, we compete with Newbridge and General Data-Comm.

It seems like ATM management is going to be a big part of the technology's success. What is FORE's philosophy going forward on management? What are key issues here?

l agree. One of the benefits of ATM has to do with building net-

works that are significantly easier to operate and install alternative technologies. It's already the case that they are slightly easier, but not as dramatically as I would like. One of the ways we can do that is through network management applications that take advantage of some

of the unique characteristics of the underlying ATM technology.

Probably the most unique characteristic is the reliance on

virtual connections. Tools in our network management suite let you examine the top 10 most loaded connections and let you trace through the connectivity of a virtual circuit.

There is a lot of work being done in the area of multimedia over IP. How might that compare with ATM?

It's got different goals. You have to start from the point that IP's goal is to fundamentally



hide the heterogeneous nature of the underlying networks and to provide the best, but essentially lowest common denominator, service that can be provided over those networks. If you look at what the service model has been prior to the work on multimedia, it was best-effort datagram service, or "send and pray," as some people describe it. It has very high reliability, but reliability that you had no way of influencing.

It's a real challenge to increase that service model to something better than best effort. But that's what this research effort is doing through [Resource Reservation Protocol], in particular. However, it's in an environment where there's no control over the underlying network. We see ATM as one of the few technologies that can deliver all the kinds of resources that RSVP can ask for.

People talk about ATM for transporting multimedia. Is this really happening, or what is it being used for?

It is really happening in the sense of transporting both traditional data traffic and traditional circuit traffic, like telephone between PBXs. That's one of the promises of ATM that we're now delivering on. The other way to look at the multimedia going over ATM is it's all

data — some of which is video, etc. — and it's all done on top of traditional networking protocols, often 1P.

What type of customers is FORE signing up these days, and how do they differ from your earliest customers?

It's a pretty marked difference. The kinds of customers we are signing today are by and large enterprise networks at the core of some portion of the key business of the customer. It may just be within one business unit or within one wing. If it is the design of the aircraft, then the engineers are now hooked up to an ATM-based network. The other characteristic is that almost uniformly they are using Ethernet switches to integrate ATM with their existing investment.

This is quite different from our early customers, who were often interested in ATM for its own sake or who wanted to do research in networking.

We had a market that was focused at the high end — power users, CAD workgroups — but then the connection to the rest of the organization would be low performance. Previously, the high-performance net was just in pockets. But now the backbone application has really taken off.

What ATM issues do you think the press needs to address?

One that I'm concerned over is the assumption that ATM is hard to understand or more complex than alternatives. These things all have to be understood in the context of what benefit you get for that. Even more importantly, who

Bundling available here

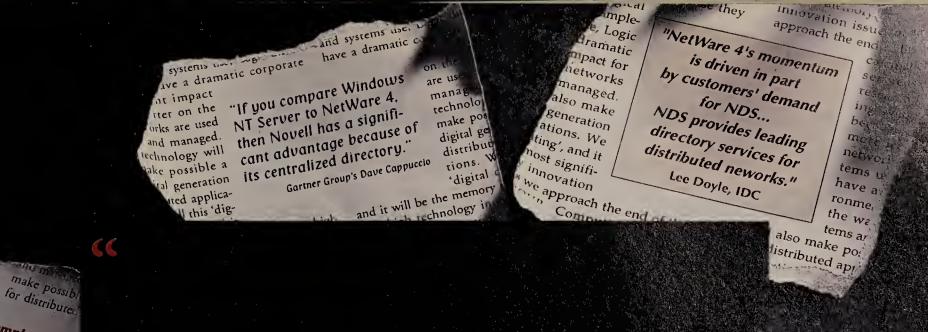
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 - a Milwaukee
- BaltimoreBoston
- nore New York

 Philadelphia
- ► Chicago
- Pittsburgh
- ClevelandDetroit
- Portland, Ore.Seattle
- Hartford, Conn.

pays the price of complexity? Is it the user or the vendor? If it's the vendor, then the user should be perfectly happy. It's another thing if the user has to deal with the more complex network. It's our mission to make sure that the user doesn't have to.

If that requires much more effort in software and silicon, so be it. Users shouldn't accept an inferior solution because it's simpler for the vendor to build. The Yugo was probably a simple car, and the Mercedes is more complex. But I know which one I'd rather drive.



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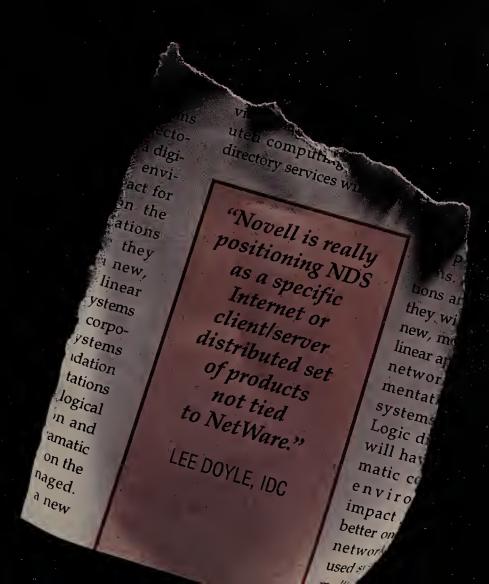
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Supercharged modems challenge ISDN

Asymmetric capabilities match the requirements of Internet access data flow.

By Tim Greene

As if ISDN didn't have enough trouble already, now analog modem makers are about to offer speeds to rival the struggling digital technology – but without the need to upgrade the phone line.

Vendors last week promised modems by mid-1997 that will give users 56K bit/sec speed in one direction. It will be slower upstream, but observers expect at least I4.4K bit/sec performance.

That approach parallels asymmetric digital subscriber line (ADSL), the budding broadband technology admired because its lopsided upstream/downstream capacities mirror the demands of Internet and corporate remote access. An asymmetric modem would be

similarly well suited.

"I'd love it," said Ron Murphy, vice president of information systems for CNL Group, Inc., a financial firm in Orlando, Fla., that uses 28.8K bit/sec modems for remote access.

"Now we send big files to people in the field on a disk. If we had that much more speed, it would make it more reasonable to send them on line," he said.

Boca Research and Hayes Microcomputer Products, Inc. both said they would produce 56K bit/sec modems based on new chips developed by Rockwell International Corp.'s Semiconductor Systems group. Analysts said they thought U.S. Robotics Corp. was working on a similar product, but the company would not confirm those reports.

Cut the noise

The new technology takes advantage of the fact that for most of its length, an analog where it is digitized. If it is destined for a remote analog line, it is converted back to an analog signal at the central office nearest the receiving user.

However, if the receiving user has a digital connection to the carrier's network, the modem traffic is converted at only one

stream bandwidth. Not the end of ISDN

A fully digital ISDN Basic Rate Interface line offers up to 128K bit/sec in both directions, but the service is far more expensive than an analog phone line. Also, it is not universally available and can still be difficult to provision. Plus, most Internet service providers that provide ISDN connections only offer it for a single 64K bit/sec channel.

that cuts throughput. But the

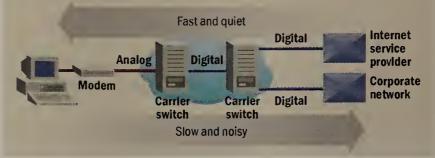
noise is less in the other direction, from digital to analog,

allowing the greater down-

Rockwell said its new modem technology was not meant as a direct challenge to ISDN, but spokesmen for Hayes claimed it would act as a cheaper alternative. Other observers disagreed. "Will the ISDN market collapse? No. Will ISDN lose some users to this technology? Yes," said Sanjay Mewada, an analyst with The Yankee Group in Boston.

MODEM MADNESS

New modems will be able to deliver 56K bit/sec downstream from a digital source. That's because that traffic is free of quantization noise introduced when an analog modem signal is made digital within the carrier network. Upstream traffic from an analog source is subject to the noise, so is slower.



modem connection is really digital. When an analog signal leaves the user's modem, it is carried to a phone company central office place, where the analog line meets the central office. When the traffic is converted from analog to digital, noise is introduced

MCI entices business customers with new services

Systemhouse subsidiary launches LAN/WAN service.

By David Rohde

Atlanta

MCl Communications Corp. last week introduced a service aimed at controlling the cost of computer network installation and maintenance for midsize busi-

ON A GROWTH PATH

The former SHL Systemhouse — now renamed MCI Systemhouse — claims the following growth since its Nov. 1995 purchase by MCI:



*Employee figures include on-site data center personnel for companies that completely outsource their IT operations to MCI Systemhouse.

The carrier's newly renamed subsidiary MCI Systemhouse launched networkMCI Enterprise Management, a one-size-fits-all outsourcing and remote management service for businesses with 50 to 1,000 desktop computers.

Under the service, MCI Systemhouse will go to a customer's site and install a standard LAN and WAN architecture based on Compaq Computer Corp. ProLiant servers, Cisco Systems, Inc. routers and Microsoft Corp.

Office suite software.

MCI Systemhouse will then remotely manage the network down to the desktop from a dedicated net management center in Dallas.

Officials of the outsourcing division hope to tempt busi-

nesses to sign on for the services by offering an average price of \$2,700 per desktop per year. MCI compares that figure to the \$6,000 to \$12,000 per year that analysts have calculated as the average cost of maintaining a desktop in a LAN/WAN environment.

MCI Systemhouse will own and maintain the on-site network hardware, such as routers, hubs and servers. But the customer will buy its own PCs and pay for trans-

port services from customer sites to the Dallas network management center.

Separately, MCl last week announced frame relay access to its MCl Mail and XChange 400 messaging services.

The goal is to give users with heavy messaging volumes a boost in the speed at which they can pull down their mail, according to Martha Hanlon, MCI's director of messaging marketing.

OMCI: (800) 338-6815.

MCI bundles local, long-distance business services, but frame relay, SMDS not included.

By David Rohde

Washington, D.C.

MCI Communications Corp. took the initiative last week in bundled local and long-distance services for big business customers by announcing an industrial-strength version of its MCI One offering for consumers and smaller businesses.

Bundling available here

The networkMCI One bundle of services is initially available in the following cities:



The new offering, dubbed networkMCI One, combines long-distance voice and data services with new local service offerings from MCI. This will provide corporate customers with potentially bigger volume discounts.

But with MCI pricing some services off a price schedule submitted to the Federal Communications Commission last Friday, it was unclear at press time whether customers can expect big savings from networkMCI One.

User attorney Ellen Block

cautioned that carrier bundles are not for everyone.

"Sophisticated users tend not to want to be tied to an individual vendor," said Block, a partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm of Levine, Blaszak, Block and Boothby. "On the other hand, there are some people who appreciate the no-brainer aspect of that package."

Included in the package are voice services such as Vnet, Vision and 800 offerings, data services such as private-line, switched digital and inter-

netMCI, plus MCI Mail and conferencing services.

In addition, it includes typically expensive dedicated access services that link customer premises to MCI points of presence

Although subsidiary MCI Metro has installed local telephone switches in 13 cities, most MCI local service customers must still purchase dedicated access lines because the carrier lacks adequate interconnection agreements with regional Bell operating companies.

User Excellence Awards: It's crunch time

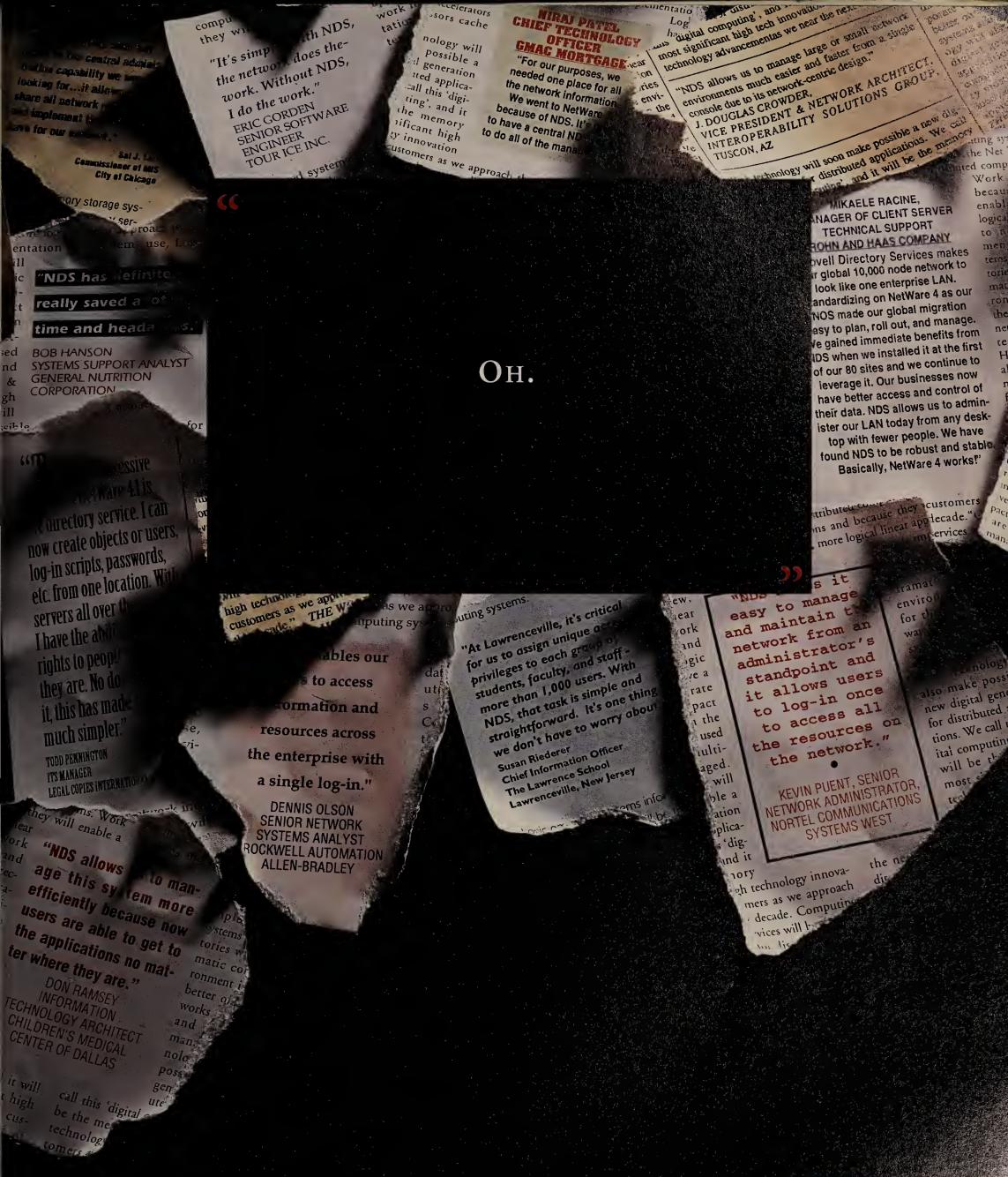
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E-mail your entry to excellence@nww.com or fax it to (508) 820-1103. Be sure to include your name, title, company name, address and phone number. The deadline has been extended to Sept. 23. Please note: Entries will be accepted only from user organizations; no vendors or consultants, please.





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IBM leads electronic commerce crusade at ICE

By Joanie Wexler

Anaheim, Calif.

It was evident at last week's Internet Commerce Expo (ICE) here that vendors are buckling down to enable secure electronic selling.

IBM led the ICE contingent with a partnership program that has the potential to

speed education about commerce tech- announced transaction processing sernologies and hasten delivery of electronic commerce to the merchant masses.

BBN Planet announced a secure transaction processing service called Merchant Advantage, based on transaction processing software from OpenMarket, and Best Internet demonstrated its recently

vice (NW, Sept. 9, page 39).

For its part, Silicon Graphics, Inc. announced a series of electronic commerce partnerships with key technology providers such as CyberCash, Inc., Open Market, Inc. and BroadVision, Inc. SGI will deliver their security and commerce products with its packaged Internet server offerings.

IBM's partnership program probably made the biggest step last week in moving the World-Wide Web beyond marketing and information sharing. The company followed the launch of its Commerce-Point application software portfolio (NW,

Sept. 9, page 78) with the announcement of the IBM CommercePoint Partnership.

Through the program, IBM will pro-

vide consulting and training on CommercePoint applications and tools to value-added resellers, Web design firms, marketing companies and others.

Those companies can then help their own merchant customers deploy customized adaptations of the IBM software to foster Web-based sales.

"By supplying customers like [valueadded resellers] and integrators with assistance, IBM will help everyone along the [electronic commerce] learning curve," said Tom Jenkins, broadband consultant at TeleChoice, Inc., a consulting firm based in Verona, N.J.

For example, a newly formed nonprofit group at KPMG Peat Marwick LLP is using IBM CommercePoint technology to develop standards for buying and sell-



IBM's John Patrick talks up electronic commerce.

ing software over the 'Net, said Douglas Graham, a director at KPMG in New York.

Another IBM partner, Leopard Communications in Boulder, Colo., is piloting IBM's World Distributor business-to-business commerce software, due in the fourth quarter. Leopard will use IBM tools and consulting to launch electronic catalogs for its client, the National Association of Wholesalers. And the Unibex Global Alliance, a young provider of international electronic commerce services for small to midsize businesses, said it will use CommercePoint technologies to enable domestic and international 'Net trade.

IBM is bullish on electronic commerce's potential to quickly kick into gear. "The home page is dead," stated John Patrick, vice president of Internet technology at IBM. "Live, interactive Web sites are in."

Still, the electronic commerce vendors at ICE admit it will be at least another six months before ordering, transaction processing and fulfillment begin catching on over the Web. Even the L.L. Bean Web catalog on display in IBM's booth allowed only browsing; actual ordering will not be available through that page until the first quarter of next year.

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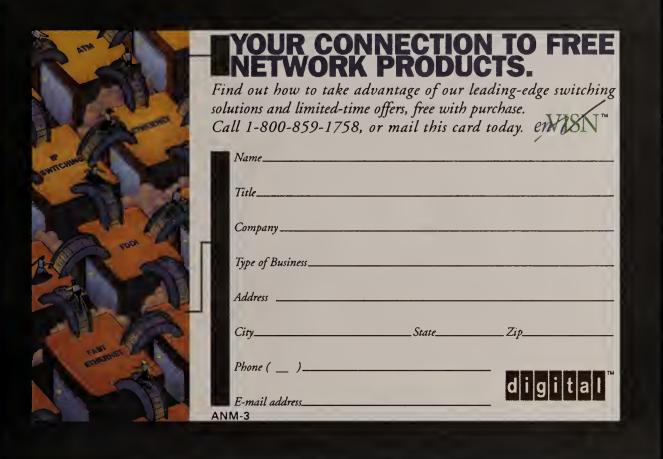
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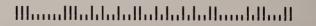
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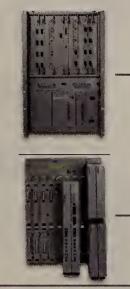
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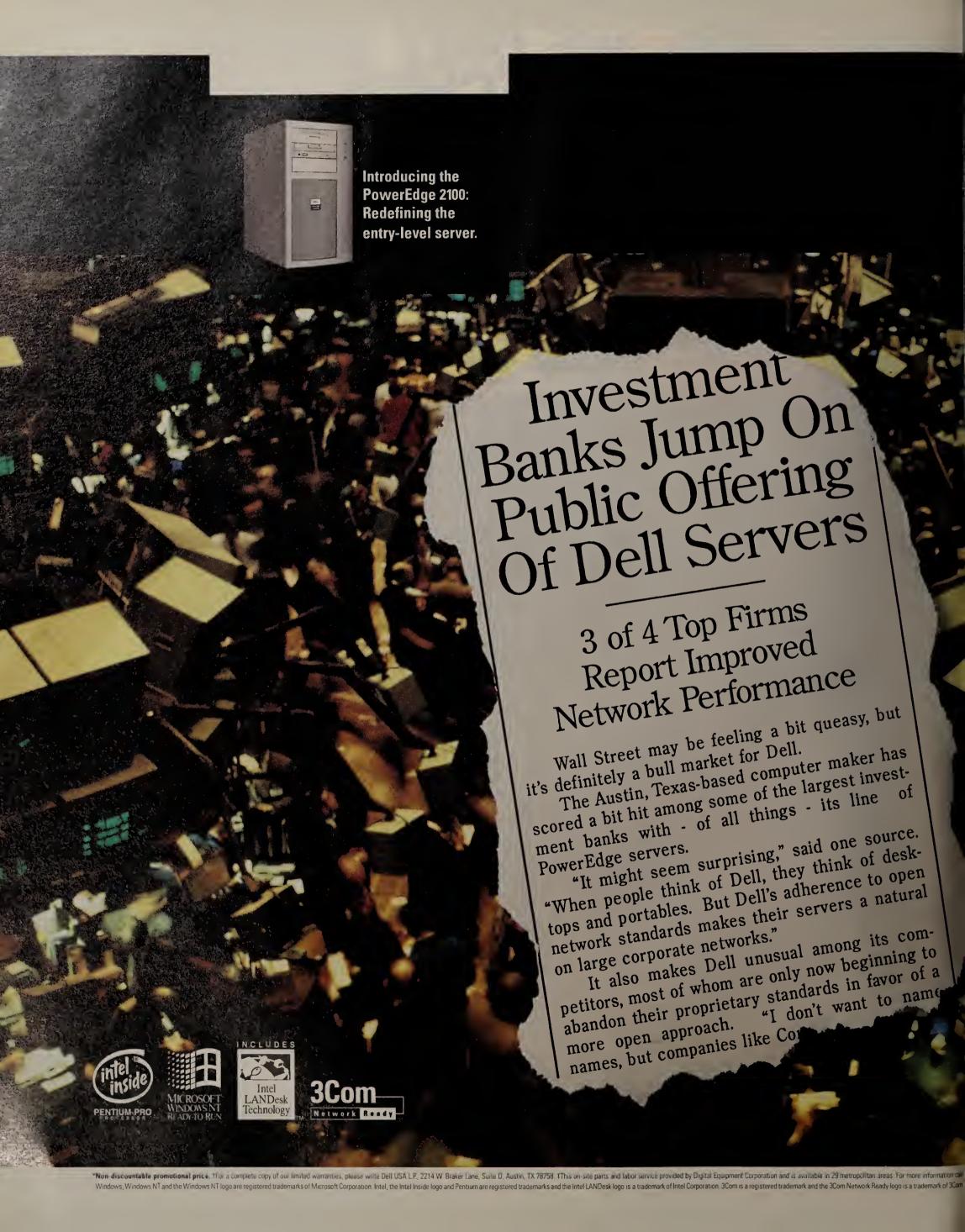
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WANS & Internetworking

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Briefs

announced enhancements to its
ISDN bridge/router product
line, including the addition of
IPX as a standard feature on all
models and price reductions
across most models. The company has also lowered the prices
of several FlowPoint-100 models
by as much as \$200. The
enhanced, less costly FlowPoint
routers are available now.
FlowPoint: (408) 252-6740.

■ U.S. Robotics this week at NetWorld+Interop 96 will introduce the NetServer/8 and Net-Server/16 I-modem remote access servers that can



accept either analog or ISDN calls on any port. The products are intended for users migrating toward ISDN but who do not want to invest in ISDN for all remote locations. The devices support remote management, IP and IPX, and Multilink PPP. Net-Server/8 costs \$8,995, and Net-Server/16 costs \$13,995.

U.S. Robotics: (800) 877-2677.

that it has added analog access to its Pacesetter ISDN home office router line with the Pacesetter SOHO, allowing use of the line for voice calls, fax or analog modems. SOHO includes one ISDN Basic Rate Interface line, two analog phone ports and a four-port Ethernet hub. SOHO will be available next month for \$995

ADC Kentrox will also introduce MagnumPlus, its new

plexer that integrates voice, video and data onto T-3/E-3 or OC-3 Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) or time-division multiplexed backbones.

MagnumPlus will also be available next month for the price of \$10,000.

ADC Kentrox: (503) 643-1681.

Remote access

RAScom opens for third-party business

By Tim Greene

Salem, N.H.

Start-up RAScom, Inc. will introduce at NetWorld+Interop 96 an open-standard ISDN remote

access server that takes advantage of declining PC prices and off-the-shelf technology.



RAServer

2000 and RAServer 2500 are Intel Pentium-based servers that support user interface cards from other vendors, including 3Com Corp., Fore Systems, Inc. and Madge Networks, Inc.

That architecture is meant to make it cheaper and easier to See RAScom, page 29

Racal adds to scads of FRADs

By Michael Cooney

Sunrise, Fla.

Racal Datacom, Inc. hopes to cut through the noise in the crowded frame relay access device (FRAD) market with products that promise to improve remote branch office network availability and performance.

In its first FRAD foray, the company will roll out its Fast-Frame family of FRADs designed to give users guaranteed delivery of SNA traffic from remote branch offices over frame relay nets. At the same time, the tools are designed to allow administrators to more easily control bandwidth and prioritize mixed LAN and SNA traffic.

The company is attempting to break into a market that has seen an explosion of competition in the past year. Big guns such as Cisco Systems, Inc., Motorola, Inc. and Bay Networks, Inc., along with smaller companies like Jupiter Technology Corp., have all entered the FRAD ring.

"One of the biggest challenges Racal and many of the other FRAD vendors face is differentiating themselves with a technology that really doesn't lend itself to too much differentiation," said Thomas Nolle, presi-



dent of CIMI Corp., a consultancy in Voorhees, N.J.

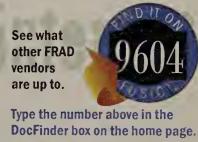
Racal expects to use its redundancy and network management features to differentiate its devices, said Nat Parke, general manager of Racal's program office. "Our strategy is to make it

almost impossible for users to lose mission-critical applications to network failures," Parke said.

The FastFrame family includes three members: Models 200, 300 and 600. The Model 200 is the low-end feeder FRAD and supports two ports for local SNA, bisynchronous and other legacy protocol traffic, as well as two WAN ports at speeds up to 64K bit/sec. It is designed for remote branch applications where there are no LANs, such as automated teller machines.

The Model 300 supports two local ports for SNA and other legacy traffic, a single Ethernet or token-ring LAN port and two WAN ports at speeds up to 128K bit/sec. The high-end central-site FRAD, the Model 600, supports four local SNA traffic ports, one token ring or Ethernet LAN, and two WAN ports at speeds as fast as T-1.

The FastFrame family supports a slew of SNA protocols, including bisynchronous and 3270. It also has other features, such as Synchronous Data Link Control to Logical Link Control 2 conversion so users can terminate that traffic locally and keep it off the backbone.





All FastFrame software includes bandwidth allocation and traffic prioritization mechanisms that ensure response-time-sensitive SNA application data continues to flow over a congested frame relay link, Parke said.

It is also in the software where the important redundancy features are supported, Parke said. For example, an Automatic Dial Restoral feature detects the loss of a leased line and redials the switch using the same Data Link Connection Identifiers to restore the connection. If the See Racal, page 29

IBM wants to store the 'Net

By Michael Cooney

San Jose, Calif.

IBM last week rolled out its first storage system targeted at Internet and intranet users, but it ain'tcheap.

The company announced the 3466 Network Storage Manager, a single integrated hardware and software package for

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Novell NetWare

SunOS/Solaris

Microsoft Windows, NT, 95

data backup, retrieval and stor-

age. Pricing will start at

terabytes of compressed and

The system can store up to 40

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NCR Unix

\$480,000.

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applications from

144G bytes of regular data from servers and desktop systems. The data can come from across enterprise internetworks or via the public Internet.

The idea is to preconfigure a package that reduces the complexity of storage systems for distributed environments, said Nora Denzel, director of Storage

Management Software in IBM's Storage Systems Division. The package's primary applications will be to support automatic backup and retrieval and disaster recovery.

IBM said the 3466 will help users decrease the costs of ongoing storage management. IBM said because all the components of the RISC-based 3466 have been preconfigured and tested, users do not have to evaluate the new box before installation. The package will also reduce costs by

allowing users to better schedule the automatic backup of critical servers and workstations across the enterprise. The 3466 comes with IBM's WebShell interface that supports Internet browsers such as Netscape Communications Corp.'s Navigator, Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Explorer or IBM's Web Explorer. This allows users to backup and restore their files through the public Internet or corporate intranets.

The package supports various client/server operating systems, including IBM's AIX and OS/2, Digital Equipment Corp.'s Unix, Hewlett-Packard Co.'s HP-UX, Novell, Inc.'s NetWare and Microsoft's Windows NT. It also supports a variety of database applications, such as IBM DB2, Oracle, Lotus Notes and SAPR3.

The Network Storage Manager comprises IBM's Serial Storage Architecture storage disks, a Magstar 3590 Tape Drive and ADSTAR Distributed Storage Manager (ADSM) software. ADSM controls the flow, backup and archiving for the data that the 3466 handles. For connectivity, the box supports token ring, Ethernet and FDDI LANs and TCP/IP, SNA/LU 6.2, NETBIOS and IPX protocols.

The 3466 should be available by the fourth quarter.

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Lucent PBX networking packs voice/data punch

Company adds ATM dynamic bandwidth allocation to flagship Definity PBX, cranks out ATM concentrator.

By David Rohde

Basking Ridge, N.J.

Lucent Technologies, Inc. last week enhanced its flagship PBX to make it easier for network managers to link together voice switches in widely dispersed locations.

The AT&T spin-off also introduced an ATM concentrator to take voice traffic off the PBX and feed it to ATM networks using dynamic bandwidth allocation.

The enhancements, including a new Windows-based PC management system, are included in Release 5.0 of the Definity Enterprise Communications Server (ECS). The Definity ECS name is Lucent's new tag for the widely installed Definity PBX to emphasize its integration into enterprise networking infrastructures.

Lucent sweetens PBX pot

Definity ECS Release 5.0 enhancements:

Enhanced signaling for dynamic bandwidth allocation

New ATM concentrator linked with Definity ECS

Extended mileage ranges for remote switching modules

Improved Q.932 support for linking different

New Windows-based management package

The goal of the enhancements is to allow Definity users to protect their investments while moving toward voice and data convergence, said Susan Barbier, strategic planning director for Lucent Business Communications Systems.

Going over a MAN or WAN

Lucent's two PBX networking enhancements are designed to enable distributed workforces to employ Definity ECS features at remote locations without having to install an entire new high-end voice switch at the remote sites.

The first option is designed for users with access to private fiber in a metropolitan-area network (MAN). It allows users to extend a switch module up to 22 miles away from a Definity ECS located in a central site using single-mode fiber transceivers.

The second option requires users to lease private lines from carriers over a WAN. It enables the user to extend Definity ECS switching modules up to 3,500 miles from a central site using as many as four T-1 facilities.

For ATM users, Lucent is building support for dynamic bandwidth allocation with a new concentrator and wideband signaling upgrades in the switch itself. Such a scheme allows voice cells to be interleaved with data traffic instead of segregating voice traffic on its own constant bit rate permanent virtual circuit.

In such a fashion, according to analysts, users can realize the potential cost savings of ATM's ability to carry voice and data, instead of finding it a mere substi-

tute for traditional private-line networks.

The new ATM concentrator is called the Definity ECS NET90. The concentrator takes voice traffic off the PBX through its T-1/E-1 interface and feeds it to ATM switches. The concentrator, available at the end of the year, costs \$5,500 to \$7,700, depending on configuration.

Add, change, delete

Finally, Lucent introduced a new Windows-based software module called Terra-

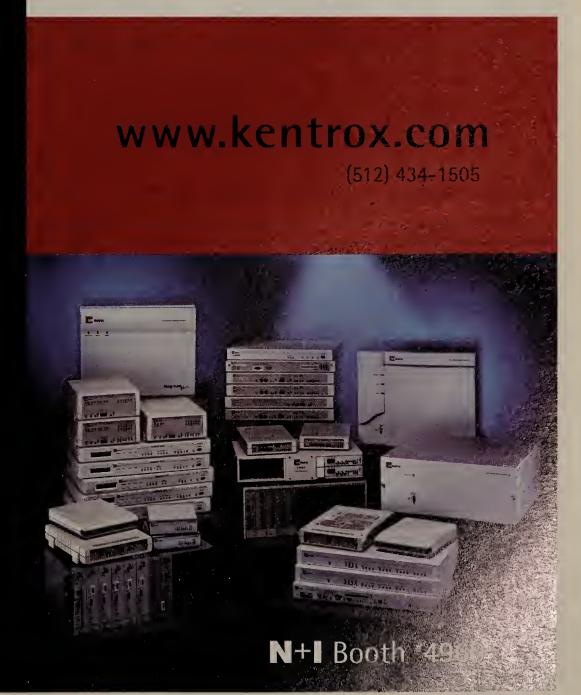
nova ECS Station Administration. Among other features, the software allows network administrators to add, change or delete telephone stations.

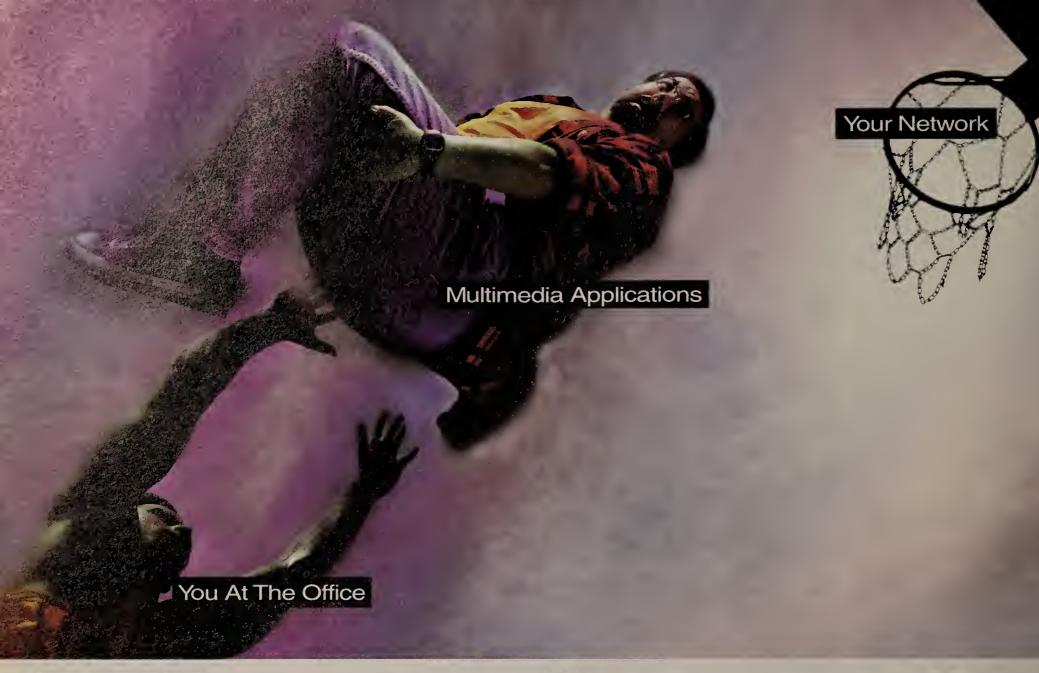
Slated for general availability Sept. 30, Terranova ECS Station Administration is priced at \$2,900. Included in the price are two other modules, ECS Reports Generator and a remote LAN access package called ECS Communications.

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Visual pumps up UpTime, supports more services

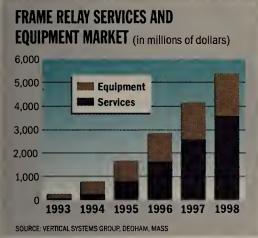
Company unveils managed DSU/CSU for more than frame relay.

By Jim Duffy

Gaithersburg, Md.

Visual Networks, Inc. has enhanced its Visual UpTime product so it can now access and monitor a wider range of WAN services.

Initially a managed access device for frame relay services only, the Visual UpTime DSU/CSU can now monitor



multiple data services, including leased lines, Internet and X.25. The company has also upgraded Visual UpTime's data collection agents to provide, among other things, more detailed data on frame relay performance.

The improvements are designed to allow companies to integrate the management of the various services that make up a hybrid WAN environment.

The Visual UpTime DSU/CSU supports line rates from 56K/64K bit/sec to T-1/E-1, and features Ethernet and tokenring interfaces. The device has an optional second port that allows users to send voice and data traffic over the same access line.

The CSU/DSU now supports more intelligent management agents that identify network performance.

Included in these agents is a Burst Advisor that recommends committed information rates and port rates based on 1-second usage measurements and historical data.

Typically, usage is measured in 15-minute summaries that provide an average of traffic burst rates and can create misleading usage information, according to the company.

Other new Visual UpTime capabilities are designed to enhance protocol analysis so users can identify complex protocolrelated problems across multiple WAN services. They include:

■ Selective traffic capture filtering by upper layer protocol fields

■ Upper layer protocol statistics that leverage the emerging RMON2 standard

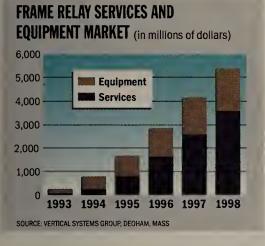
■ The ability to profile network applications, such as Web, file transfer, mail and

The Visual UpTime management application, which runs on a Unix or Windows workstation, can summarize and analyze any of this data. It can run in stand-alone mode, or it can be launched from either a Hewlett-Packard Co. OpenView or IBM NetView for AIX management platform as part of an overall enterprise management suite.

The data collection agents are priced from \$1,195 to \$3,595 with or without the CSU/DSU capabilities.

The management application costs \$11,995 for Windows and \$17,995 for

All products are available now. ©Visual: (301) 208-6784.



BusinessBriefs

Cabletron Systems, Inc. has agreed to resell and support Seagate Enterprise Management Software, Inc.'s AppControl application and systems management software. Seagate obtained AppControl from Calypso Software Systems, Inc., a company Seagate acquired earlier this year. Calypso had been a Cabletron business partner. AppControl provides policy-based CPU, file system, memory, Web server and system process monitoring and logging, and software distribution. It will be available from Cabletron in the fourth quarter.

Bay Networks and **Phillips Business Electronics** announced last week both marketing and development agreements to integrate their product lines. The marketing agreement combines Bay's ATM, workgroup and campus switch line with Phillips' multimedia access equipment. The development agreement calls for cooperation on value-added multimedia applications incorporating both product lines and ensuring interoperability.

Lucent Technologies, Inc. and ICG Communications, Inc. last week announced a seven-year, \$1 billion deal for ICG to buy Lucent telecommunications equipment to expand ICG's local telecom networks nationwide. Equipment includes switches, SONET transport equipment, power plants and software.

Newbridge Networks Corp. announced creation of a new executive post, vice president of broadband alliances, and named Claude Haw to the post. Formerly, Haw was vice president of fast packet networks. In his new role, he will coordinate the ongoing relationship with Siemens to ensure that research and development efforts to create joint products meet user needs and to develop joint marketing and support. The alliance is designed to offer ATM gear from LANs to the core of carrier networks that can be administered under one management system.

Shiva Corp. and Netcom On-line Communication **Services** have teamed to offer Internet access plus Shiva's Internet access products WebRover stack, ShivaIntegrator 200 router and AccessPort ISDN client router. Netcom will provide dedicated, frame relay or ISDN connections to its network. The package will be available through value-added resellers that market Shiva products. Shiva can be reached at (617) 270-8300.

Under an agreement announced last week, Hamilton Hallmark will sell electronic components to Telco Systems, Inc. The agreement is designed to give Telco Systems a steady flow of parts it needs to deliver products faster.



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HP links LAN with OpenView

Professional application suite takes integration onus off the customer.

By Jim Duffy

Palo Alto, Calif.

Hewlett-Packard Co. has unveiled an application suite for its OpenView for Windows platform that allows users to manage various LAN operations.

The Windows 95- and Windows NT-based offering, which had been anticipated, is called OpenView Professional Suite (*NW*, March 4, page 8). It melds the OpenView for Windows Workgroup Node Manager platform services with PC, server, printer and network device management software, as well as software distribution and metering tools.

The suite is targeted at companies with small to midsize networks that do little, if any, custom integration of third-party applications with OpenView for Windows.

"Before [integration] was a real hassle because if you wanted to upgrade your software, something would pretty much be guaranteed not to work with something else," said Garry Winer, network administrator at DonTech in Chicago. "Those issues are all resolved."

Still, Winer said he would like to see more functionality in Professional Suite, such as help desk and trouble-ticketing capabilities.

Analysts said the applications in the suite could stand to work better together.

"They have some common look and feel between the point products within the suite, but they are not fully integrated," said Bob Sakakeeny, an analyst at Aberdeen Group, Inc. in Boston. "It's not a smooth transition from one [application] to the other. They also need a little more work on getting the alerts up to the [Unix-based] Big Daddy Open View."

In all, the Professional Suite has 12 LAN management elements, including

HP's own OpenView Workgroup Node Manager, HP AdvanceStack Assistant, HP Expose, JetAdmin, NetServer Assistant, NetMetrix/Win, PowerWise and Top-Tools applications. Components contributed from other vendors include Symantec Corp.'s Norton Administrator for Networks and Norton pcAnywhere, ExMachina's Notify Connect and McAfee's Saber LAN Workstation.

Workgroup Node Manager provides IP and IPX device discovery, mapping, polling and alarm/trap status notification. AdvanceStack Assistant is an SNMP-based application for monitoring traffic and managing devices for HP's hubs, switches and bridges.

HP Expose monitors Windows NT, NetWare and VINES network operating systems, while JetAdmin provides remote installation, configuration and management of HP printers. NetServer Assistant monitors SCSI controllers, hard drives, memory and power supplies. Net-Metrix/Win provides information on network health through access to Remote Monitoring agents.

PowerWise manages power supplies, and TopTools manages PC hardware inventory, firmware, configuration settings and security features via access to the Desktop Management Task Force's Desktop Management Interface agents.

Norton Administrator for Networks provides central administration of heterogeneous desktop computers. Norton pc-Anywhere provides remote access to Windows 95 and NT applications and data.

Professional Suite will be available in October for \$1,495. That price includes a one-server, 10-node license for the Symantec and McAfee products.

©HP: (800) 752-0900.

Racal

Continued from page 21

switch is out, the device will automatically dial into the next closest switch.

As for network management features, the FastFrames will get two new applications — one to control FRAD configurations called the Wizard and a network statistics package that lets users monitor congestion, error rates and other traffic

data. The applications will first run on Racal's own package, Communications Management Services, and will be available for other management platforms such as Hewlett-Packard Co.'s OpenView.

The FastFrame Models 200, 300 and 500 are priced at \$995, \$1,795 and \$3,395, respectively. The Model 200 is available now and the 300 and 600 will be available in the first quarter of 1997.

©Racal: (954) 846-5609.

RAScom

Continued from page 29

customize each server by supporting a broad array of plug-in devices. RAScom will expand that practice later this year by teaming up with another unnamed vendor to offer analog dial-up in addition to ISDN.

The company hopes to use its open approach to take on remote access veterans Ascend Communications Corp., Cisco Systems, Inc. and Shiva Corp., which rely on their own operating systems, buses and interfaces.

Wes Kussmaul of The Village Group, located here, said his company was attracted by a number of factors: the openness, the Windows NT Server operating system and the ability to configure the server on-the-fly for local network interfaces. The company plans to incorporate RAServers in an Internet hosting system it is developing.

The RAServer Series 2000 products can be configured with Ethernet, tokenring, FDDI and ATM interface cards that RAScom gets from 3Com Corp., Fore Sys-

tems, Inc. and Madge Networks, Inc.

RAServer 2000 supports two Primary Rate Interface ISDN lines or eight Basic Rate Interface lines, allowing it to handle as many as 60 remote users at once.

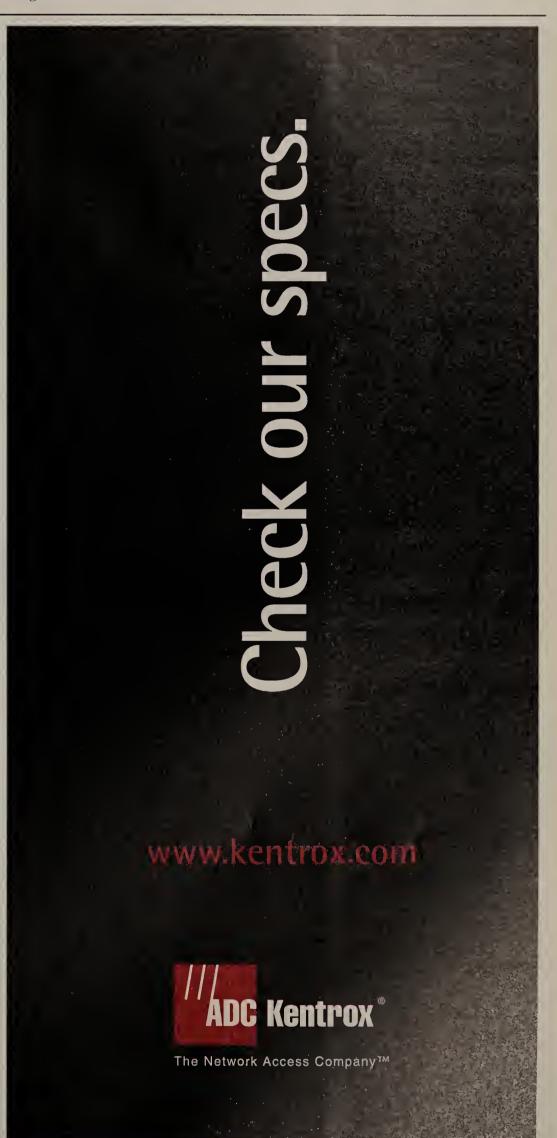
The ruggedized RAServer 2500 supports up to four PRIs or 32 BRIs, for a total of 120 concurrent dial-in connections. Five of the servers can be interconnected in the same rack to offer 600 ports.

Later RAServer releases will include firewalls and other security beyond that already provided by NT Server, RAScom said.

The company can deal with the local phone company to establish ISDN lines and offers a free help desk from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., with a 24-hour hotline for an extra charge. As a standard service, if one of the servers should fail and cannot be brought up, the company offers an identically configured replacement of the downed unit within 24 hours.

RAServer 2000 costs between \$8,500 and \$24,500, and RAServer 2500 is priced at \$16,500 to \$50,500. They will ship next

©RAScom: (603) 898-5200.



Circle Reader Service #74

IP address managers bolstered

By Jim Duffy

Two IP address management vendors have upgraded their wares to ease network administration and provide more options for enterprisewide deployment.

Quadritek Systems, Inc. last week rolled out Windows NT and database

extensions to its Quadritek IP Management System (QIP). And ISOTRO Network Management, Inc. moved to ease network administration by automating Domain Name Service (DNS) and Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP) management and configura-

tion. Users can now deploy a mix of Unix and Windows NT systems for managing their IP name and address structures, Quadritek said. And they can catalog all network resources in Oracle Corp. and Microsoft Corp. SQL Server databases, in addition to the Sybase, Inc. databases QIP already supports.

QIP for NT enterprise server software is available now. QIP for NT remote server software will ship in mid-October.

QIP's Microsoft SQL Server module for Windows NT ships Sept. 26. QIP's Oracle module is available now.

Management battle

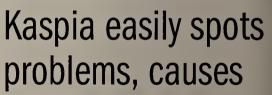
Not to be outmanaged, ISOTRO has enhanced the DNS and DHCP servers of its NetID management system so they can be managed remotely through NetID's Admin Tool.

When a DHCP client joins the network, it requests an address and suggests a name. The NetID DHCP Server verifies that the name and address are unique and enters them in the NetID database.

The DHCP Server then responds to the DHCP client with the IP address and other DHCP options, such as network domain name, address of network servers and gateways, and the subnet mask. Once the DHCP Server has registered the changes in the database, the DNS Server detects the changes, retrieves the data and automatically updates the DNS, the companysaid.

The NetID DNS and DHCP Servers are currently available. The NetID DNS server costs \$2,495, while pricing for the NetID DHCP server is based on the number of addresses.

©Quadritek: (800) 408-2747; ISO-TRO: (613) 722-1921.



By Jim Duffy

Beaverton, Ore.

Kaspia Systems, Inc. has unveiled a network monitoring system it says will automatically identify problems and likely causes.

The Kaspia Monitoring System runs on Windows NT workstations and is accessible through a Web browser. It provides automated discovery and collection of information across the enterprise, and Web-based reports that serve as road maps to problem areas of the network, according to the company.

The Kaspia Monitoring System polls as many as 5,000 network hosts and internetwork objects containing Management Information Base (MIB) data. From this information, the system creates a network topology database and periodically polls the MIBs for net performance metrics.

The Kaspia console processes statistical information for report generation, data collection configuration and management, data browsing and graphing, inventory browsing and trap-level integration with enterprise management systems.

The system's Report Center identifies network segments that need attention and an explanation of how each conclusion is reached. It also includes information on how to begin the diagnostic process, thereby eliminating the need for network managers to manually locate a network problem.

The Kaspia Monitoring System is priced from \$5,000 to \$36,000 and is available now.

©Kaspia: (503) 644-1800.



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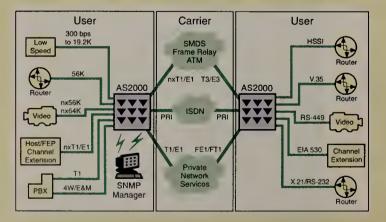
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INTERNETWORKING

Scott Bradner



Installing complacency

t seems that everyone has to have a firewall these days. Corporate managers want to pro-

tect their assets from the evil doers out there on the Internet. Countries and corporate moralists want to protect their employees from the evil things out there on the 'Net. China, for instance, seems to be looking to its past for inspiration and thinking about building The Great Firewall to protect its billions of potential Internet users. And auditors now seem to have a little checkbox for firewalls: You have one? Good, you pass. Now on to the next checkbox.

Don't get me wrong, I think firewalls

can be good things. Of course, you have to take care to match your requirement set to the function set of the device you select. If all you want to do is block TFTP (Trivial File Transfer Protocol) and NFS (Network File System) traffic then you can program filters in to your border router and call it a firewall. If you want to get fancier — controlling who on the inside can do what looking out, and who on the outside can do what looking in — then you will most likely need to get one of the devices specifically built as firewalls.

You can get quite fancy with these devices, including blocking or permitting employee access to specific Web sites, allowing customer access only to specific internal Web servers or even blocking Email from Bill to Fred.

What big difference does it make to the security of your network to put a firewall between it and the rest of the Internet? If you assume all the bad people are "out there," a firewall can significantly decrease the vulnerability to successful attacks on your resources or information. But is the assumption of the compartmentalization of bad guys valid? Not if you look at history. The vast majority of known cases of network or computer security violations have been perpetrated by insiders. This makes a great deal of sense. Unless you are rather dumb and name the computer that has your corporate secrets in it 'good stuff here,'' it can be quite hard for some outsider to know where to look.

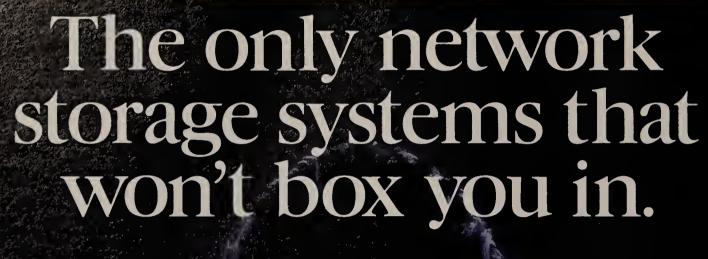
There are the mixed cases of an exinsider being out there and still knowing the lay of the network, or an outsider with inside help. Putting in a firewall between you and the 'Net can help solve part of your network security problem, but you must keep in mind that your biggest threat continues to be people with legitimate access to the local network. In other words, your own users.

I think there is a real threat introduced by the installation of a firewall. That is the threat of complacency. Since you have a firewall, you might think you no longer need to be worried about the heretofore normal security procedures — good passwords, installing security bug fixes promptly, verifying host configurations with programs such as COPS (on cert.sei.cmu.edu in the directory pub/ cops for anonymous FTP), not sharing accounts, keeping good logs and having a specific security incident phone hot line.

Firewalls can be very helpful, and you do not need to limit the use of firewalls to the one external Internet link. Firewalls can also be used internally, to protect sensitive subnets from internal prying eyes. But be sure to remember that the major threat is still within the wall and an external firewall just more clearly delineates what internal means. Good internal security procedures must be followed and, where it is needed, strengthened.

Disclaimer: Harvard's experiences with firewalls goes back to the Revolutionary War days when Harvard Hall caught fire, but the above are my cautions.

Bradner is a consultant with Harvard University's Office of Information Technology. He can be reached vi at sob@harvard.edu.



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The following network platforms are currently installed: Industry: (check one only) B. The following network platforms are planned for purchase: NETWORK PROTOCOLS LAN ENVIRONMENT 12. Government (Federal/State/Local) 01. ☐ Manufacturers (other) | Normal | N 13. ☐ Military 02. Finance/Bankin 03. ☐ Insurance/Real Estate/Legal 14. ☐ Aerospace 04. ☐ Health Care Services 05. ☐ Hospitality/Entertainment/Recreation 06. ☐ Media/TV/Cable/Radio/Print 07. ☐ Retail/Wholesale Trade/Business Services 15. ☐ Consultants (Independent) 16. ☐ Carriers/Interconnects 17. ☐ Manufacturers (Computer/Communications) 18. ☐ Resellers of Computer/Network Products 08. ☐ Transportation 09. ☐ Utilities (VARs, VADs) 19. □ Systems/Network Integrators 20. ☐ Distributors (Computer/Communications) 21. ☐ Other (please specify) 11. Process Industries (Mining/Construction/ Petroleum Refining/Agriculture/Forestry) COMPUTER OPERATING SYSTEM | 34. | DOS | 35. | Unix/Xenix/AIX | 36. | OS/2 | 37. | OS/2 | Warp | 38. | IBM MVS | 39. | IBM VM | 40. | Digital VMS | 41. | Macintosh | 42. | Windows | 43. | Windows | 43. | Windows | 45. | Solaris | 46. | Other (please specify) | NETWORK OPERATING SYSTEM What is your job function? (check one only) Engineering Management Corporate Management (CIO, CEO, Pres., VP, Dir., Mgr., Financial Management) Consultant (Independent) NETWORK IS MANAGEMENT: Networking Management LAN Management Datacom/Telecom Management Is, IT, MIS, Systems Management 8. Other (please specify) What is the estimated value of networking equipment and services that you ☐ 47. ☐ None of the above (1-46) help specify, recommend or approve? (check one only) What is your scope and involvement in purchasing decisions for network 05. \$\begin{aligned} \$10 \text{ mil.} - \$19.9 \text{ mil.} \] 06. \$\begin{aligned} \$5 \text{ mil.} - \$9.9 \text{ mil.} \] 07. \$\begin{aligned} \$1 \text{ mil.} - \$4.9 \text{ mil.} \] 08. \$\begin{aligned} \$500,000 - \$999,999 \end{aligned} 01. ☐ \$100 million or more 02. ☐ \$50 mil. - \$99.9 mil. 03. ☐ \$25 mil. - \$49.9 mil. 04. ☐ \$20 mil. - \$24.9 mil. 09. ☐ \$250,000 - \$499,999 10. ☐ \$100,000 - \$249,999 11. ☐ None of the above products & services for your enterprise? B. INVOLVEMENT (check all that apply) A. SCOPE (check one only) 1.□ Corporate/Enterprise 2.□ Department 3.□ None 1. Recommend/Specify 2. Approve 3. Evaluate 4. Determine the need What is the total number of sites for which you have purchase influence? (check one only) 1. □ 100+ 2. □ 50 - 99 3. □ 20 - 49 7. None What is the total number of LANs, workstations/nodes at this location/ in your organization? Are you involved in the purchase of and/or plan to purchase network products At this location: Entire organization; and services? 00000 1,000 - 4,999 1,000 - 4,999 Check ALL that apply in Columns A and B: 100 - 999 50 - 99 100 - 999 50 - 99 10 - 49 A. I am involved in the purchase of the following products/services: B. I plan to purchase the following products/services: 10 - 49 LOCAL-AREA NETWORKS INTERNET/INTRANET (cont'd) Please indicate your involvement in developing/implementing Internet/ A B □ 48. □ Web Browsers Local-Area Networks Local-Area Networks Network Op. Sys. Software LAN Storage/Backup Optical LAN Storage/Backup Disk LAN Storage/Backup Tape LAN Storage/Backup RAID LAN Storage/Backup Network Test/Diagnostic Tools Cables, Connectors, Baluns Intranet Technologies: (check all that apply) □ 49. □ Intranet Applications/Groupware □ 50. □ Search Retrieval Products (web crawler) □ 51. □ Internet Development Tools □ 52. □ Internet Commerce Tools 1. Recommend/Specify 2. Approve 3. D Evaluate 04. 05. 06. 5. ☐ Implement 4. ☐ Determine the need 6. ☐ None Which of the following hardware platforms are installed/planned in SOFTWARE/APPLICATIONS 07. 08. 09. A B | 53. | 54. | 55. | 56. | 57. | 58. | 59. | 60. | 60. | 60. | your company? (check all that apply) Network Management Systems Management Security Communications Software Mainframes A - Installed B - Planned 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. IBM IBM Network Interface Cards Peer-to-Peer LANs SNMP Network Management ATM Switches Token-Ring Switches Ethernet Switches Remote LAN Access/Communications Amdahl Digital Terminal Emulation Word Processing Operating Systems Client/Server Applications Development Database Management/RDBMS Spreadsheet Groupware FDI Cray Hitachi Tandem Unisys AT&T GIS HP 5. Unisys | 60. | Chent/Server Applica | | 61. | Database Manageme | | 62. | Spreadsheet | | 63. | Groupware | | 64. | EDI | | 65. | E-mail | | 66. | Windows/Graphical U | | 67. | Multimedia | | 68. | Graphics/DTP | | 69. | Remote Access | | 70. | Imaging | | 71. | Server Suites (Back of the control Data General Servers □ 18. □ Superservers □ 19. □ File/Applicati □ 20. □ Print Servers/ □ 21. □ CD-ROM Ser □ 22. □ LAN Servers Superservers File/Application Servers Print Servers/Fax Servers CD-ROM Servers What is the total number of Servers/Clients Which of the following Servers/Clients do you have E-mail Windows/Graphical User Interface Multimedia installed/planned: (USE NUMBERS ONLY) installed/planned: (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY) At this location E-AT THIS LOCATION Internet Access I-Servers J-Clients K-Servers | L-Clients 01. Power PC 02. Power Mac 03. Mac Other Imaging Server Suites (Back office, etc.) Suites Middleware A B B Bridges □ 23. □ Bridges □ 24. □ Routers □ 25. □ Bridge/Router □ 26. □ Gateways □ 27. □ Intelligent Hubs □ 28. □ Stackable Hubs 04. Multi Processor Servers Document Management Database Server G-ENTIRE ORGANIZATION # H-% with 06. Pentium Pro 07. Pentium 08. 486 ☐ 77. ☐ Computer-Integrated Telephony (CIT) COMPUTERS/PERIPHERALS 09. 386 10. 286 WIDE-AREA NETWORK EQUIPMENT & SERVICES WIDE-AREA NETWORK EQUIPMENT & SERVICES A B | 78. | Frame Relay Equip/Services 79. | Modems 80. | FT-1/T-1/T-3 Multiplexers 81. | FT-1/T-1/T-3 Services 82. | SONET 83. | Inverse Multiplexers 84. | SMDS 85. | Asynchronous Transfer Mode 86. | Diagnostic/Test Equipment 87. | DSU/CSU 88. | VSAT/Satellite 89. | ISDN Equipment & Services 90. | PBXs 91. | Voice Mail/Response 92. | Videoconferencing 93. | Leased Lines 94. | Switched Data 95. | E-mail 96. | 800/900/MTS Services 97. | Virtual Networks 98. | Outsourcing/Systems Integration Services 99. | Education/Training Services 12. Other Estimated gross annual revenue of your entire company/institution: (check one only) 1. □ \$10 billion or more 4. □ \$100 million to \$499.9 million 7. □ \$5 million to \$9.9 million 8. □ \$5 million to \$9.9 million 2. □ \$1 billion to \$9.9 billion 5. □ \$50 million to \$9.9 million 8. □ \$4.9 million or less 3. □ \$500 million to \$999.9 million 6. □ \$10 million to \$49.9 million 9. □ None of the above REMOTE/WIRELESS COMPUTING A B 39. □ PDAs □ 40. □ PCMCIA Devices □ 41. □ Wireless Data Services □ 42. □ Wireless Data Equipment □ 43. □ Wireless LANs □ 44. □ Cellular Equipment & Services Estimated number of employees at this location/in entire organization: At this location: Entire organization: 4. ☐ 1,000 - 2,499 5. ☐ 500 - 999 6. ☐ 499 or less 1. ☐ Over 10,000 2. ☐ 5,000 - 9,999 3. ☐ 2,500 - 4,999 4. ☐ 1,000 - 2,499 5. ☐ 500 - 999 6. ☐ 499 or less INTERNET/INTRANET For which areas outside of North America do you have purchase influence? A B Internet Access Service □ 45. □ Internet Access Service □ 46. □ Firewalls/Security □ 47. □ Web Servers (check all that apply) 3. ☐ South America 4. ☐ Australia 5. ☐ Middle East 6. ☐ None ☐ 107 ☐ None of the above (1-99)

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Briefs

■ America Online is getting into the phone business. The company confirmed last week that its 6 million members will be able to talk to each other over AOL's private managed network using AOL-provided telephony software for their PCs by the end of

Pricing is not available yet. The service does not extend beyond the AOL network, but the company confirmed it is working on expanding its telephony capability to the Internet.

- Telstra, the Australian telecommunications authority, has launched a public network service based on Release 4 of Lotus Development Corp.'s Notes groupware. Similar Notes services have been announced or are already available in the United States, Europe and Japan.
- The Federal Communications Commission appointed 30 individuals to the new North **American Numbering Coun**cil (NANC). Under a July 1995 FCC ruling, the NANC will select a neutral organization to take over administration of the nation's telephone numbers, a job still held by Bellcore despite its 3-year-old request to shed that responsibility.

■ US WEST, Inc. added its

name to the roster of local carriers

the FCC to overturn substantial

portions of its local network interconnection order. Under the FCC rules, "US WEST will be required to sell all the parts of our network to competitors at below-cost rates," complained Richard McCormick, US WEST chairman.

■ Global One, the joint venture of Sprint Corp., France Telecom and Germany's Deutsche Telekom, appointed Viesturs **Vucins president and CEO.**

Vucins is a former president of the AT&T-led Unisource and Uniworld joint ventures.

AT&T offers bundled govt. discount

International traffic, 800 lines trigger 35%-off deal without volume requirements.

By David Rohde

Washington, D.C.

AT&T has developed a service to help government users deal with soaring international call volume and growing demand by citizens to reach agencies via toll-free numbers.

Without fanfare, the carrier

Prices for all domestic outbound calls under

Government Worldwide Intelligent Network:

Access method Nominai price 35% discount

per minute

16.7 cents

All day, every day, rates

Dedicated access 13.1 cents

are about a penny higher.

SOURCE: AT&T, WASHINGTON, D.C.

late last month introduced the Government Worldwide Intelligent Network (GWIN). The service combines a raft of AT&T domestic and international offerings employed by government users into a simplified discount billing plan.

GWIN resembles AT&T's

popular UniPlan for commercial users. Uni-Plan aggregates outbound and inbound domestic calls plus international calls onto a single bill and then applies higher discounts for higher overall volumes. GWIN also aggregates overall calling volume, but the difference is that GWIN users get a straight 35% discount

regardless of overall volume.

Both UniPlan and GWIN include users' switched and dedicated access locations. As a result, even smaller agency locations that cannot justify a T-1 dedicated access line to the nearest AT&T point of presence can have their calling volume included in the GWIN discount.

GWIN plugs a hole in the gov-

MCI services on one big bill

ernment's Federal Telecommunications System (FTS) 2000 contract, which does not extend to international circuits, explained Larry Cunningham, an AT&T offer manager for the carrier's Government Markets Division here.

Many federal agencies now experience a surge in calling volume following international military and diplomatic incidents, Cunningham said. And U.S. agencies are increasingly establishing inbound call centers, with some of them using their

See GWIN, page 36

At the beginning of next year, switched access per minute per minute the phone bills of MCI Commu-Prices apply regardless of mileage, time of day or total volume. Initial-minute prices after the discount

nications Corp.'s biggest corporate customers will have a whole newlook.

By Tim Greene

Washington, D.C.

Based on the company's Horizon billing platform, MCI will be able to format the bills and deliver them on the schedule the customer wants.

Horizon, a client/server system, taps data formerly collected and stored in individual billing systems for individual services.

The platform basically lets MCI produce one bill combining whatever services the user has bought from MCI: long distance, virtual network, 800 numbers and ISDN.

Horizon catapults MCI ahead of long-distance competitors AT&T and Sprint Corp., both of which are working on their own advanced billing platforms, according to Rob Rich, chief telecom analyst at The Yankee Group in Boston. Rich said AT&T and Sprint are not far behind. "MCI is ahead, but not as far ahead as they think," he

For routine billing, users will be able to get bills based on their own schedules rather than those established by MCI. That way, a company that wants bills on a 90day cycle, for example, can get one bill instead of three monthly bills. And MCI will guarantee that the user will get that bill within 10 days of the end of a billing cycle.

Horizon makes improvements on the current system of billing by adding a graphical

user interface (GUI) for MCI employees to enter customer service, pricing, billing and reporting arrangements. The lack of a GUI slowed down the provisioning of services.

Rich said he was impressed that MCI incorporated Microsoft Corp.'s Windows NT into Horizon. Most carrier billing sys-

What's on the Horizon?

MCI's new Horizon billing platform will:

- Offer customized billing formats
- Provide real-time billing data
- Guarantee bills within 10 days of the end of the billing cycle
- Make a single bill for all services the user buys from MCI

tems have been based on proprietary systems.

"That's especially interesting. It's the first large-scale implementation of it I've seen," he said.

In addition to the benefits Horizon might bring to users, it will also give MCI a boost by making it easier to set up new service offerings. Such provisioning, which now takes four to six months, will be reduced to nine weeks by Horizon, according to

As MCI tries to expand into local services, Horizon will come in handy because it is flexible, Rich said. For example, MCI now resells wireless service, which means it does not have control over the billing system for that service. But with Horizon, MCI can still integrate the wireless

See Horizon, page 36

MCI snares Defense contract

Price after

8.5 cents

per minute

10.9 cents

By David Rohde

to AT&T POP

Local telco

Washington, D.C.

MCI Communications Corp. has smashed a big hole in AT&T's dominance in day-to-day Department of Defense communications by winning a major Pentagon contract.

The No. 2 carrier recently was awarded the Defense Informa-

The equipment itself will come from a group of SONET subcontractors. equipment Notable among them are Northern Telecom, Inc. and Tellabs Operations, Inc., which are already working to upgrade MCI's U.S. backbone network to speeds as high as OC-12, or 622M bit/sec.

MCI gets piece of the pie

The initial components of the Defense Information Systems Network are as follows:

Contract	Date awarded or to be awarded	Winner
Global support services	June 1996	Boeing
Network switching and bandwidth mgmt.	Sept. 1996	MCI
Transmission services	Late 1996	To be announced
Video services	Late 1996	To be announced

tion Systems Network (DISN) switching infrastructure and bandwidth management con-

Under the nine-year deal, MCI will provide Synchronous Optical Network (SONET) digital cross-connects, central officeclass switches and other gear for the Defense Department's new OC-3, or 155M bit/sec, backbone, which links several hundred U.S. locations.

Once installed, the network will be managed by MCI for the DISN, a long-awaited consolidation of disparate Defense Department networks that have grown up over the years.

The contract win is especially significant for MCI because among the networks the DISN will replace is AT&T's Defense Commercial Telecommunications Network. That contract is See Defense, page 36

Network World • September 16, 1996 • www.nwfusion.com • 33



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Horizon

Continued from page 33

portion of the bill based on whatever information it receives from the wireless resellers it deals with.

That flexibility will also be valuable in billing MCI customers for local services that MCI buys from local exchange carriers. "The systems can be not tightly integrated but still interoperable," Rich said.

Currently, MCI does not have a specific plan for incorporating Horizon features into MCI's international Concert services. That is because MCI's partner in Concert, British Telecommunications plc, does not have the Horizon platform. However, because BT lacks any such advanced billing platform, it might adopt elements of Horizon for its own use as well as for Concert, according to Joe Zaccari, MCI's vice president of IT business development.

Defense

Continued from page 33

based on AT&T T-1 and T-3 circuits and carries a big chunk of Defense Department voice and data traffic. The Defense Department has long cited its need for additional bandwidth to carry the amount of traffic it generates.

AT&T is by no means out of the ball game yet, though. The contract that MCI won does not actually include the OC-3 transport circuits, just the switching and bandwidth management. The Defense Department intends to award the transmission contract late this year as part of a four-pronged strategy to generate maximum competition among potential vendors (see graphic, page 33).

MCI agreed to establish a dedicated 7x24 network management center for the DISN using the NetExpert network management system from Objective Systems, Inc. The carrier's \$88 million bid was well below other carriers' bids, but MCI was told it won the contract equally because of price and technical considerations, according to Diana Gowen, MCI's director of Defense Department sales and marketing.

Government protesters

Government contract awards are subject to protest by the losers — in this case AT&T and a partnership between Sprint Corp. and EDS Corp. AT&T officials said they would decide whether or not to file a protest following a mandatory debriefing by the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA).

The contract award comes even as AT&T continues to introduce new service packages to both civilian and military agencies, such as the new Government Worldwide Intelligent Network (see story, page 33).

MCl officials said they were prepared to help DISA defend its decision against a protest by AT&T, which they considered far more likely than a Sprint protest.

"I think if I were AT&T, I'd have to do something," Gowen said. "It's hard to walk away from something this big."

GWIN

Continued from page 33

800 or 888 numbers as a way for citizens and military personnel to call back home.

Subject to procurement rules, federal agencies that are assigned either to AT&T or Sprint Corp. under FTS 2000 — or those that do not use FTS 2000 at all — can subscribe to GWIN. But federal agencies are not the only ones eligible for

GWIN, Cunningham said. A broad range of government users can subscribe, including state agencies, U.S. embassies of foreign governments and multilateral organizations such as the World Bank and the United Nations.

Still, the new service is not the ideal plan for every government agency, Cunningham conceded. The 35% GWIN discount brings domestic dedicated access interstate rates below 9 cents per minute

(see graphic, page 33). But GWIN rates are still higher than FTS 2000 for straight outbound domestic phone calls; a major renegotiation last year brought many FTS calls below 5 cents per minute.

And other than some calling card privileges, GWIN does not yet incorporate the virtual private network features — such as call screening and abbreviated dialing found in AT&T's Software Defined Network and competitors' VPNs.

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Sprint fine-tunes frame relay management

Forms partnership, launches real-time customer management service, CD-ROM version on its way.

By Joanie Wexler

Kansas City, Mo.

Customers of Sprint Corp.'s Frame Relay Service that recently gained a tighter grip on the management reins of their networks will soon have an option for even

more control.

Through a partnership with Visual Networks, Inc., Sprint has added a service option to its frame portfolio called Visual UpTime Analysis Service Element. Sprint is offering the option of bundling Visual's

managed DSU/CSU, which contains net monitoring and analysis software and a separate hardware probe (see story, page 27), into its frame relay service.

The offering complements what users of Sprint's Frame Relay Service already

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get as part of the basic package: monthly reports of network performance to help them spot network trends and tweak their net configurations accordingly. Currently, they see summaries, based on data collected every 15 minutes throughout the month, of the number of frames in and out, the number of frames discarded and how long it takes frames to get from point to point. This information is presented in a summary for the overall network, and per permanent virtual circuit (PVC) and port, said Jack Tozier, frame relay product manager at Sprint.

Now users of the Visual option which also requires a \$20,000 database server that includes server and client software (see graphic) — see real-time statistics, including what percentage of the overall traffic a given protocol accounts for at any point in time. They also see endto-end delay for a given PVC measured in milliseconds, said Brad Hokamp, Sprint's director of data product management.

The price of information

Sprint's real-time monitoring option, where users can purchase or rent the equipment with software, costs 20% more than Sprint's basic frame relay service, according to the company.

Here's the breakdown of what you need:

- DSU/CSU and probe, which stores two days' worth of data: Price is \$800 for a 56K bit/sec link, \$2,800 for a T-1 link.
- Database server, which includes the hardware and server and client software: \$20,000.
- Client software for monitoring workstation: Software price included with the server.

Even better news, he said, is that the company has a CD-ROM version in alpha test that packs even more granular information into users' hands. That version is due out this fall.

The moves signify an important trend: Carriers are beginning to place more useful and timely management information in the hands of large customers that want to retain a staff to plan and design the network, rather than leaving that up to the

For example, EMI Communications Corp., a regional interexchange carrier now owned by Intermedia Communications, Inc., in June launched Enhanced Customer View, a graphical monitoring and performance analysis tool. And LCI International, Inc. offers these capabilities plus the ability for customers to take action on their nets, say, by reconfiguring a committed information rate themselves.

As yet, though, "most [other carriers] don't offer any useful information to network managers," said Beth Gage, broadband consultant at TeleChoice, Inc., a consulting firm in Verona, N.J.

Users have had access only to monthly hard copy reports, which they had to specifically request, as with Sprint's existing offering. Measuring performance in minutes "isn't representative enough" for accurate trend analysis and network decisions, Gage said. "You need to get into milliseconds."

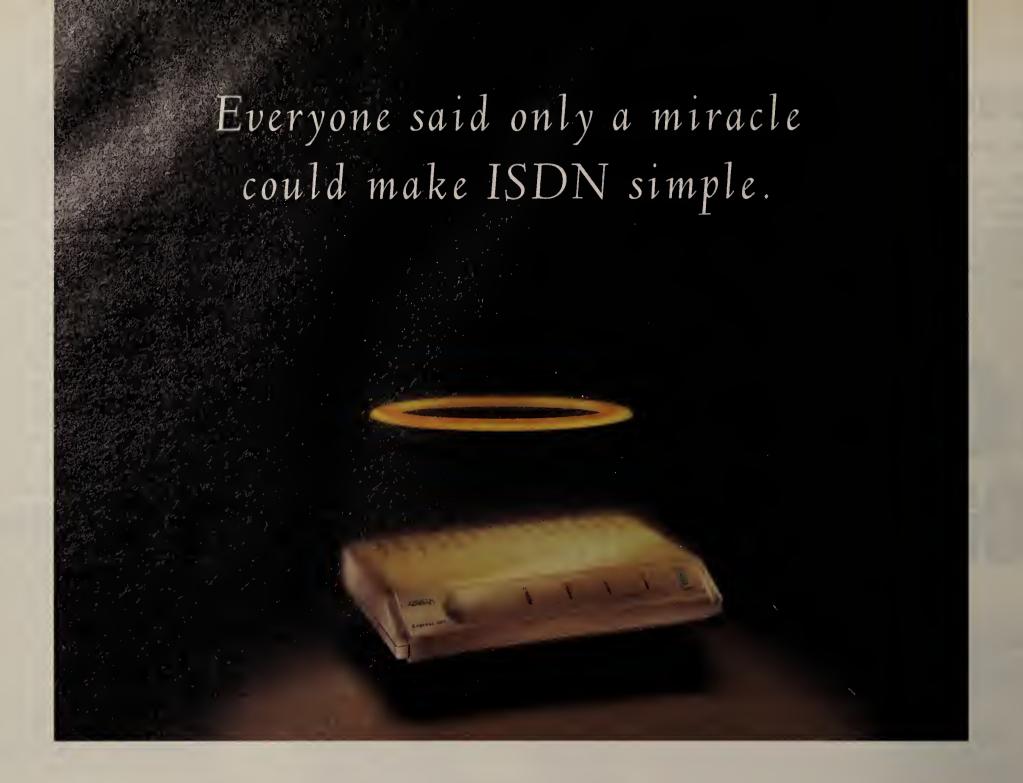
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AT&T builds CDPD, but what is it good for?

Carrier to add four new markets this year, strikes fourth inter-carrier agreement. But users need educating.

By Joanie Wexler

Kirkland, Wash.

After missing earlier deadlines, AT&T Wireless Services, Inc.'s efforts to make Cellular Digital Packet Data (CDPD) a mainstream service have reached fever pitch, as the carrier is tirelessly bringing up new markets on the IP-based wireless net.

IF THEY BUILD, HOW MANY WILL COME?

Despite CDPD's small base, GIGA's CDPD projections are bullish, citing broader coverage and price cuts.

CDPD installed base (in thousands)



Still, AT&T and other cellular carriers have much work ahead of them before CDPD is a success. First, there is the emergence of personal communications services. Second, AT&T and others have failed to sell users on CDPD's benefits, observers said.

AT&T has been on a network expansion and carrier interconnection agreement spree. It recently announced that it has deployed its CDPD service in two additional cities: Tampa, Fla., and West Palm Beach, Fla. The company said it intends to offer commercial service in Fresno, Calif., and Orlando, Fla., in the third quarter, extending its total CDPD reach to more than 110 million people.

The company also said last week that it has struck its fourth intercarrier agreement — this time with Southwestco Wireless Cellular One, effective immediately. The deal stretches AT&T's coverage to El Paso, Texas; Albuquerque and Las Cruces, N.M.; and Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz.

AT&T has already inked intercarrier agreements — loosely called "roaming" or "visiting" agreements — with cellular heavyweights Ameritech Cellular Services, Bell Atlantic NYNEX Mobile and GTE Mobilnet.

The agreements mean that AT&T users can enter a partner's territory and continue to use the AT&T service, billed at the same rate on a unified AT&T invoice. Interconnection agreements among other carriers will operate the same way.

AT&T's continued investment in CDPD reflects "an incredible carrier commitment," which should ease user worries about providers backing away from the service, said Bill Frezza, president of Wireless Computing Associates, Inc., a consultancy in Yardley, Pa. Without broad coverage, CDPD will never make it big, he said.

But the carriers have other tasks they need to attend to.

"AT&T has still failed in its broad-scale education and justification of CDPD," said Ken Dulaney, vice president of mobile computing at Gartner Group, Inc. in San Jose, Calif. "Users still don't know what to do with it."

Dulaney and Frezza suggested that CDPD access to the Internet could help the cause. The months-old AT&T Pocket-Net Phone, a CDPD phone with a text display that runs HTML browser and application software from start-up Unwired Planet, Inc. in Redwood City, Calif., could encourage users to try CDPD, they said.

AT&T last month launched the AT&T PocketNet Phone Early Access Program, a

beta test for companies with mission-critical Internet/intranet applications requiring wireless access. An AT&T spokeswoman said AT&T has already signed up 38 customers, who are creating their own wireless Internet applications. She said half of the beta customers are Fortune 500 firms.

Among the testers is Royal Caribbean Cruises, Ltd., which is establishing real-time wireless ship-to-shore mainframe sessions to update its inventory database of on-board foodstuffs. And the AAA Auto Club South in Tampa is using the service to test a wireless automatic vehicle location system to more quickly attend to stranded motorists.

AT&T disaster team recovers downed CO

By Tim Greene

Framingham, Mass.

A convoy of tractor-trailer trucks from a secret depot somewhere on the East Coast, each rig guarded by a two-man team in a pickup truck, rumbled into a parking lothere recently.

The trucks were met by a team of specialists, summoned from scattered locations across the U.S., who were waiting for clearance to deploy their gear at the local AT&T central office (CO).

The group and equipment were

responding to a simulated disaster, a hypothetical fire that left the CO a smoking hole, totally unusable, and all of the CO staff dead.

When they deploy, the disaster recovery team hauls with it everything it will need, from tents and C rations to satellite dishes and a Bobcat tractor with trenching, bulldozer and forklift attachments.

Most of their gear is designed to reestablish contact between the AT&T long-distance network and the local exchange carrier network.

In a real disaster, this would be done by digging up the undamaged segments of cable trunks from both networks and replacing the down CO with equipment brought in by the team, plus a remote hotstandby 4ESS switch.

This standby switch can be loaded with switch settings for any of the 130 4ESSs in the AT&T network. Those settings are downloaded every 24 hours and kept on tape specifically to boot up the hotstandby in an emergency.

Key to CO recovery is the Fast Automatic Restoration (Fastar) trailer, which houses technology that grabs hold of protection channels in the network that are reserved to relieve overloaded circuits or equipment failures. Fastar, developed by Bellcore, can use those channels to



Jim Crosson, head of the team, works with a team member to make sure the gear is working properly.

restore 250 T-3 lines in less than five minutes.

While most of the circuits the team would restore would be for voice services, bringing the CO back up would also bring

up data services and dedicated lines, according to James Crosson, AT&T's strategic planning manager for network disaster recovery.

"We'll restore what was in that building," Crosson said.

On the scene

The AT&T disaster team

deploys its central office

lated disaster last week.

on wheels during a simu-

Last week, the team was still on the scene, going through the paces it would have to were there an actual disaster — such as a fire, hurricane or terrorism — that wiped out one of AT&T's switching hubs.

The disaster recovery team has been in existence since 1991, made up of 35 permanent members and 70 AT&T volunteers, who work in other capacities until there is an emergency.

While they have never been called on to restore a CO, their training prepares them to do so within 24 hours of arriving on the scene and assumes no assistance is available from the local CO staff.

Most recently, they set up satellite connections in Columbia, S.C., for the Red Cross to use in its rescue efforts after hurricane Edouard hit two weeks ago. Also, this year, the satellite unit established secure communications for the FBI's investigations of the bombing at the Olympics in Atlanta and the explosion that took down TWA Flight 800 in New York in July. ■



Circle Reader Service #71



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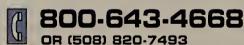


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Local Networks

Covering: Operating systems • LAN management Hubs • Switches • Adapters and other equipment

Briefs

■ Fibre Channel provider Ancor Communications, Inc. this week will demonstrate a Gigabit Ethernet network at Net-World+Interop 96 in Atlanta. The demo will consist of Sun Microsystems, Inc. and IBM workstations on Ethernet and Fast Ethernet segments, which are connected to a switched Gigabit Ethernet backbone via a 10M/100M/1,000M bit/sec Ancor Gigabit Ethernet switch prototype. Ancor will extend its product line of Fibre Channel switches and adapters to include Gigabit Ethernet gear. Ancor: (612) 932-4000.

release a handheld tool for verifying network connections and diagnosing problems on 10M/100M bit/sec Ethernet networks. Fluke OneTouch Network Assistant uses an iconbased interface and a touch-



sensitive screen, allowing network administrators to monitor collision and utilization rates, errors and broadcasts. One Touch can also alert administrators if collision or utilization rates exceed predetermined levels.

Fluke: (206) 356-5500.

Intergraph Computer Systems, Inc. (ICS) last week announced that it has created the ICS Server Division, which will befocused on developing servers for the Windows NT market. The new business unit will be headed by Lee Hanson, executive product director at Intergraph.

Hanson was formerly an executive with Sun Microsystems, Inc.

ICS: (800) 763-0242.

NT Server to support video broadcasts and conferencing

By Christine Burns

Atlanta

Microsoft Corp. this week is expected to announce several

stored in a synchronized multimediastream.

The server component of See NT video, page 44

BRINGING WINDOWS NT TO LIFE

The Active Moviestream Editor is one of the multimedia network capabilities Microsoft will roll into Windows NT Server by year-end.



Windows NT Server-based tools and services for delivering live and on-demand multimedia content across a network.

These tools and services — collectively known as NetShow — will enable companies to build and run multimedia applications such as collaborative conferencing and telephony, live broadcasts of company events and training sessions.

NetShow will be among the products discussed here this week at NetWorld+Interop 96 by Jim Allchin, senior vice president of Microsoft's Desktop and Systems Business Division.

NetShow is in beta but will be packaged with Microsoft's Internet Information Server and shipped in the Windows NT Server 4.0 box before the end of the year.

Each NetShow component incorporates the ActiveMovie streaming format (ASF), Microsoft's proposed standard format for storing and transmitting multimedia content throughout a corporate intranet. The format, published by Microsoft in March, allows data objects, such as audio objects, video objects, still images, URLs and HTML pages, to be combined and

Server offerings challenge price/performance front

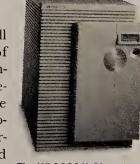
Hewlett-Packard, Dell introduce new server families.

By John Robinson

Attention server shoppers: Two companies have announced new product lines each claims will

redefine pricing levels industrywide.

Hewlett-Packard
Co. this week will
introduce a line of
enterprise servers running the 64-bit HP Precision Architecture
(PA)-8000 RISC processor with performance levels and
prices it boasts will
shatter entry-level to
high-end classifications.



The HP 9000 K-Class is the first offering in HP's new server family.

Separately, Dell Computer Corp. has introduced a line of Pentium Pro servers with prices as much as 30% below the competition's, the company said.

The new HP server family is

led by the mid-range HP 9000 K-Class, which the company is pitting against high-end servers from companies such as Digital

Equipment Corp. and NCR Corp.

The 9000 K-Class servers run the HP-UX 10.2 operating system and come in four models, ranging in price from \$52,200 to \$77,200. The K250 and K260 models support up to 2G bytes of memory and feature four ISA slots, one PCI slot and 3.8 terabytes of disk storage. The

K450 and K460 models support up to 4G bytes of memory and feature eight ISA slots, five PCI slots and 8.3 terabytes of disk storage.

See Server, page 44

SMC drives down cost of Fast Ethernet

By Jodi Cohen

A pair of LAN switch vendors last week threw down the price gauntlet in an effort to make shared Fast Ethernet and switched Ethernet more attractive to customers.

Standard Microsystems Corp. (SMC) bolstered its Fast Ethernet product line with 100M bit/sechubs that start at less than \$150 per port.

Separately, Optical Data Systems, Inc. (ODS) rolled out switched Ethernet modules for its flagship Infinity switching hub that are the same price as the company's shared Ethernet offering. The new modules will be on display at this week's Net-World+Interop 96 show in Atlanta.

The highlight of SMC's new Fast Ethernet gear is the Tiger-

Stack 100 family of hubs, which is at heart a



shared LAN offering that allows customers to plug in a module to take advantage of switching, too.

The TigerStack 100 Fast Ethernet hubs come in 12- and 24-port versions, and can be stacked up to eight units high to support as many as 192 ports. The hub supports an integrated switch module that interconnects shared Fast Ethernet segments, eliminating the need for a costly external 100M bit/sec Ethernet switch.

The TigerStack 100 hubs support Remote Monitoring and can be managed through any SNMP-based platform.

SMC rounded out its Fast Ethernet product suite with an eight-port Fast Ethernet hub as well as an eight-port autonegotiating 10M/100M bit/sec Ethernet switch.

Analysts said that SMC's aggressive pricing may be just the boost that the shared Fast

See Switch, page 44

\$150 per port.	Fast Ethernet	gear is the Tiger-
Ethernet/Fast Ethernet product	t blitz	
Vendor/Product	Price	Availability
Standard Microsystems		
TigerStack 100 hub, a 100Base-T hub in 12- and 24-port versions	\$1,990 and \$3,590, respectively	September
TigerSwitch 100, an 8-port Fast Ethernet switch	\$6,400	November
EZ Hub 100, an 8-port Fast Ethernet repeater	\$890	October
Optical Data Systems		
32-port Ethernet switch module	\$7,390	Now
24-port Ethernet switch module with two Fast Ethernet uplinks	\$9,100	Now
12-port Fast Ethernet switch module	\$7,200	Now

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Circle Reader Service #1

McAfee finds NT niche with suite

By John Robinson

Santa Clara, Calif.

McAfee this week will introduce a selfcentered approach to network management that integrates the company's security, antivirus and help desk offerings into a single product suite optimized for Windows NT networks.

McAfee Enterprise, or ME, marks the company's first solid foray into NT net-

A look inside ME

McAfee Enterprise (ME) Incorporates all the company's security, antivirus and help desk products into one net management suite.

Product

McAfee Secure-1

Modules
VirusScan; NetCrypto;
WebCrypto

Enterprise

McAfee Secure Web

NT-ssential McAfee Service WebWall; WebShield, WebID NetShield; Backup Executive Remote Desktop 32; Saber LAN Workstation; Vycor

work management and culminates three years of acquisitions and product development. Network managers access ME applications via a console running Windows NT 4.0 and Microsoft Corp.'s Internet Explorer Web browser. It uses Microsoft's Distributed OLE and ActiveX controls for drag-and-drop functions. Although the bulk of the management suite consists of McAfee products already on the market,

such as help desk and asset management tools, the collection also includes a new family of security applications.

McAfee Secure Web includes WebWall, a packet-filtering firewall, and WebID, a user authentication and certificate management module. ME also features McAfee Secure 1, which comprises the company's VirusScan offering and WebCrypto and NetCrypto encryption products.

Although ME is optimized for NT, Net-Ware users said that fact would not dissuade them from migrating to the network management suite.

Diane DelVecchio, a consultant who oversees a NetWare 4.1 WAN comprising 850 nodes on 25 servers for Smith Environmental Services in Plymouth Meeting, Pa., said ME will give her the management solution she needs — all under one umbrella.

"While it consists of separate components, the whole thing can be administered on one console," DelVecchio said. "It gives my network administrators one place to look, one place to point and one place to click. [Other management] solutions have always been kind of piecemeal."

ME begins shipping this week. A 1,000-node site license subscription is priced at \$125 per node. The WebWall and WebID components will begin shipping in the fourth quarter.

OMcAfee: (408) 988-3832.

Lucent helps users cross wireless bridge

By David Rohde

Atlanta

Lucent Technologies, Inc. this week will attempt to revitalize the lackluster wireless LAN market by pro-



viding a migration path to the emerging new standard for the technology.

At NetWorld+Interop 96, the AT&T spin-off will debut a bridge between standard Ethernet LANs and wireless LANs designed to ease migration to the long-awaited IEEE 802.11 standard, which is expected to be finalized next year.

The 7- by 10-in. WavePoint II bridge contains two PCMCIA-based radio frequency network interface module slots. In initial implementations, network managers can install Lucent's proprietary WaveLAN interface cards into either or both PCMCIA slots, providing wireless connections to desktop or notebook PCs equipped with radio receivers.

Then, when the IEEE standard is finalized, Lucent will make available 802.11-compliant cards for users to swap out without having to buy new boxes, explained Jan Haagh, Lucent's product manager for WavePoint II.

At that point, Haagh expects most customers to keep one proprietary and one standard card in the bridge, enabling a gradual move to the new standard with no disruption of current applications. "That

way, all the users do not have to throw away their cards," Haagh said.

The standards-based card will probably go into the bridge's 2.4-GHz slot, where 802.11 activity has focused since many countries' regulatory agencies have allocated the spectrum for unlicensed industrial, scientific and medical usage.

Haagh cited hospitals, universities, hotels and retail locations as prime prospects.

Ethernet in, wireless out

Examining the WavePoint ii bridge

Ethernet side:

- ► Supports 10Base-T or 10Base-2 media
- ► Handles peak data rate of 10M bit/sec

Wireless slde:

- ► Includes radio frequency interfaces of 915 MHz and 2.4 GHz
- Handles peak data rate of 2M bit/sec per interface
- ▶ Boasts physical range of 200 to 800 feet
- ► Supports 30 to 120 users per interface

Because the range of each bridge is limited, users may have to purchase several, or even dozens, of the devices. Available in November, the base unit will cost \$1,295 and the interface cards will be priced at \$695 each.

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NT video

Continued from page 41

NetShow takes ASF files stored on an NT Server machine, packetizes them and then meters how they are sent over the network. This ensures consistent, high-quality delivery to the end user.

On the client side, NetShow includes Microsoft's ActiveMovie Stream Editor, a graphical authoring tool for creating ASF multimedia files. The product will also ship with a set of ActiveX controls, which can be integrated into both on-demand multimedia applications and Web pages that automatically request delivery of multimedia files from the streaming server.

In its first iteration, NetShow will support multicasting of synchronized audio and data files, and will provide ondemand retrieval of audio, illustrated audio and video files.

Live video content will be supported in a future version, said Jim Durkin, product unit manager within Microsoft's network multimedia division.

Microsoft will provide a set of basic administration and diagnostic tools that will help administrators monitor performance and schedule the distribution of multimedia files.

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Switch

Continued from page 41

Ethernet market needs.

"The shared I00M bit/sec Ethernet market has slowed recently," said Tam Dell'Oro, president of Dell'Oro Group, Inc., a consultancy in Portola Valley, Calif. "People are developing the attitude that shared is out and switched is in, but both have a place in the network."

Shared Fast Ethernet is a good choice for networks with a large number of stations contributing more than 10M bit/sec of traffic during peak periods. Switched Ethernet, however, is appropriate when most stations are contributing 10M bit/sec or less of traffic and the user is experiencing media congestion.

Not to be left out, ODS rolled out a 32-port Ethernet switch module for its Infinity switching hub that is priced at \$230 per port, which is the same price as ODS' shared Ethernet switch module.

In addition, ODS unveiled a 24-port Ethernet switch module with two Fast Ethernet uplinks as well as a 12-port Fast Ethernet switch module.

All devices provide wire-speed performance and support all nine RMON groups.

©SMC: (516) 273-3100; ODS: (214) 234-6400.

Server

Continued from page 41

Each 9000 K-Class is designed for symmetric multiprocessing (SMP) and supports as many as four processors. All are available now.

In October, HP will begin shipping its entry-level HP 9000 D-Class servers, which function primarily as Internet or Web servers and perform NFS applications. Two models will be available, with prices starting at \$22,260. On the high-end, HP next year will release the T600, which supports up to 12-way SMP. It is designed for online transaction processing.

Dell is waging its price/performance battle on the Pentium Pro front. The company last week introduced the single-processor PowerEdge 2100, its entry-level server available with a 180-MHz or 200-MHz Pentium Pro CPU and up to 256M bytes of ECC system memory.

The 180-MHz version, with 32M bytes of memory, a 2G-byte hard drive and a 3Com Corp. 10M/100M bit/sec Ethernet network interface card (NIC) is priced at \$3,799. It features three PCI slots and three EISA slots for NIC expansion, and ships with Intel Corp.'s Server Manager package. Dell is attacking the server market with the same tactics it used to tackle the desktop market — undercutting the competition's prices, analysts said.

In November, Dell will ship the dual-processor PowerEdge 4100 with a PCI RAID controller. Later this year or early next year, the company will launch the PowerEdge 6100, which is capable of supporting as many as four 200-MHz Pentium Pros and up to 2G bytes of memory.

©HP: (415) 857-I50I; Dell: (800) 289-

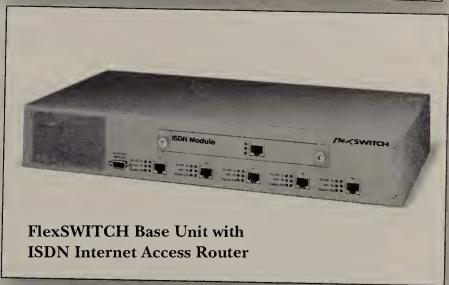
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Beta users contend 0S/2 Warp Server SMP screams

By Christine Burns

IBM is hoping to make a big splash later this month when it officially rolls out a symmetrical multiprocessing (SMP) addon for OS/2 Warp Server 4.0.

Users are demanding SMP capabilities from PC server operating system vendors to accommodate a growing number of

network users and to better serve up processor-intensive applications.

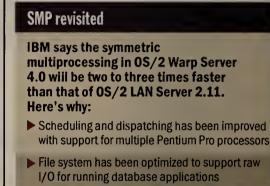
Beta testers were eager to say that Big Blue's SMP option is definitely running way ahead of the pack.

"It's incredibly fast, and I haven't run into any constraints or been able to lock it up in any way," said John Robinson, systems manager of the South Carolina Department of Recreation and Tourism. He tested the SMP software on an IBM Model 720 six-way processing machine running Lotus Development Corp.'s Notes, file and print services, and IBM DB2

Impressed with the consistent load-balancing capabilities, Robinson plans to replace five single-processor network machines with the six-way server currently running the SMP test bed.

"With that consolidation, I get the speed, a single point of control and a cost savings by only maintaining one machine," he said.

Jason Gottschalk, owner of SYO Computer Engineering in Utica, Mich., is running a dual 166-MHz processor machine,



- Memory management has been upgraded to support up to 4G bytes of virtual memory
- ▶ Performance analysis tools have been enhanced
 ▶ TCP/IP support provides faster response to client

requests

which is serving file and print and Notes to

He said there is at least a 200% performance increase over OS/2 Warp Server Advanced 4.0 running on a single processor machine.

"This is the smoothest and fastest SMP product on the market," said Bill Allred, vice president of Compu Electronics Corp., a reseller based in Lincolnwood, Ill.

Allred tested IBM's product on twoway 200-MHz Intel-based servers against the SMP capabilities shipped with Net-Ware 4.1 and Windows NT Server 3.51, and it outperformed those SMP services by 5% to 10% and 20% to 30%, respectively.

Steven King, product manager for OS/2 Warp Server, said the IBM SMP addon allows OS/2 Warp Server 4.0 to run on two- and four-way processor machines at rates up to three times faster than the SMP support delivered for previous versions of the network operating system.

IBM will ship this new SMP support as a free option for OS/2 Warp Server Advanced 4.0 customers at the end of the month. Customers can apply to receive the software at IBM's Web site (www.software.ibm.com/os/warp-server/).

An interview with Sun's chief

technology officer on SMP

SMP white papers from vendors
 Type the number to the right

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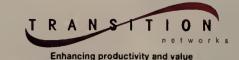
load you boost network productivity, for far less cost than full blown switching. Networking easy as pie, too, via software

changes are easy as pie, too, via software that lets you avoid the hassle and cost of entering the dreaded wiring closet.

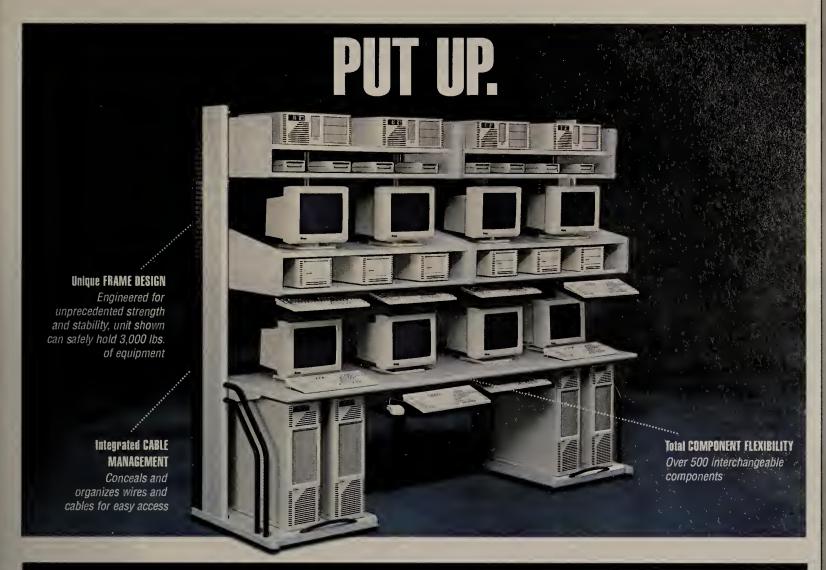
For a White Paper on port segmentation and load balancing, call Transition Networks at 1-800-267-4917 ext 0311.

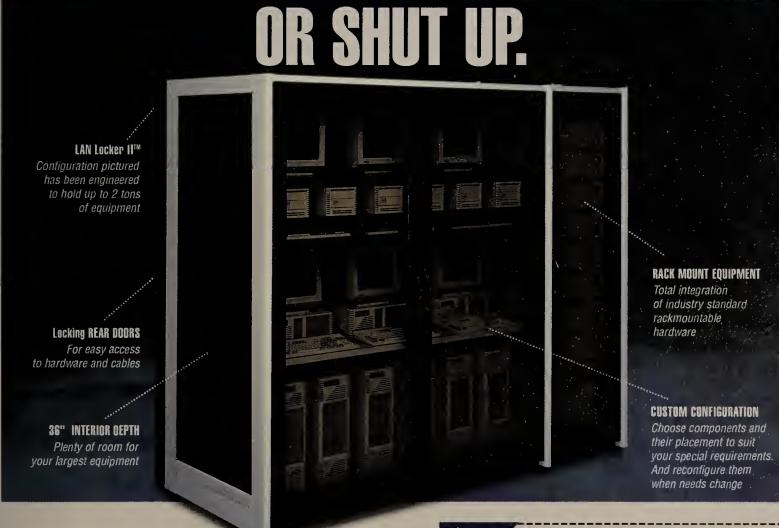
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Letting off steam over Microsoft

NT Workstation are the operating systems running many desktop computers around the world, they still don't constitute a majority

hile Windows 95 and Windows of them. So for all of you running DOS, Windows 3.1, Windows for Workgroups, Macintosh OS, OS/2, Solaris, Linux and other versions of Unix, you'd expect that Microsoft Corp. would be trying its hardest to meet your existing needs while attempting to convince you to switch to one of its 32-bit operating systems.

In a copyrighted story that moved across the Reuters news service recently, though, a Microsoft executive vice president claimed that you are all "frankly nuts" if you expect delivery of a Unix version of Internet Explorer (IE) that will be on par with one based on Microsoft's 32bit operating system software.

What I gathered from the article was that a half-baked Unix version of IE 3.0 might see the light of day, and it might surface before Version 4.0 for Windows 95 and NT. But I wouldn't count on seeing an IE 4 for Unix. And no mention was made of IE for Windows 3 or for Macintosh.

Now let me see if I've got this straight: Netscape Communications Corp. controls 80% of the browser market. With the release of an OS/2 version late this year, the company will support all major graphical operating systems.

Microsoft, claiming its browser is superior, isn't going to rush to port it to your operating system, though. Instead, the company will simply insult you for not switching to its operating system. Look for Don Rickles to be the company's new TV spokesman, I guess.

And there's more disturbing news for customers on another Microsoft front. If you're a faithful reader of this column, you've followed the on-again, off-again saga over directory services for Windows

Originally announced for the next version of NT, the directory technology later announced to ship with NT 4. When it didn't, we were told that Exchange Server's



directory was sufficient. When no one bought that line, we were told that new directory services functionality would indeed be included in Cairo, which will ship next year at the earliest.

Just hold off that network expansion you were planning, right?

Wrong. Lots of network administrators want and need enterprise directory services soon. If Microsoft is too busy trying to bump off Netscape, maybe another company can provide a service, at least until Cairo ships. But no, Microsoft refuses to open up the NT API to allow

Tip of the week

One of the most active E-mail discussion groups on the 'Net is the Novell list hosted by Syracuse University. The group's Frequently Asked Questions list has been compiled into a Windows help file for easier use. You can get a copy via File Transfer Protocol from ftp.ultra.net.au/pub/users/novell/ nvfaqhlp.zip. If you haven't already subscribed to the list, send a message to listserv. syr.edu with a message body of "subscribe novell" (without the quotation marks).

others access to authentication services until—you guessed it—the Cairo version of NT ships.

Not to worry too much, though. Novell, Inc., Banyan Systems, Inc. and IBM will reverse-engineer NT to provide these services to network administrators who need them.

Kearns, a former network administrator, is a freelance writer and consultant in Austin, Texas, E-mail him at dkearns@msn.com.

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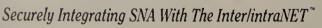
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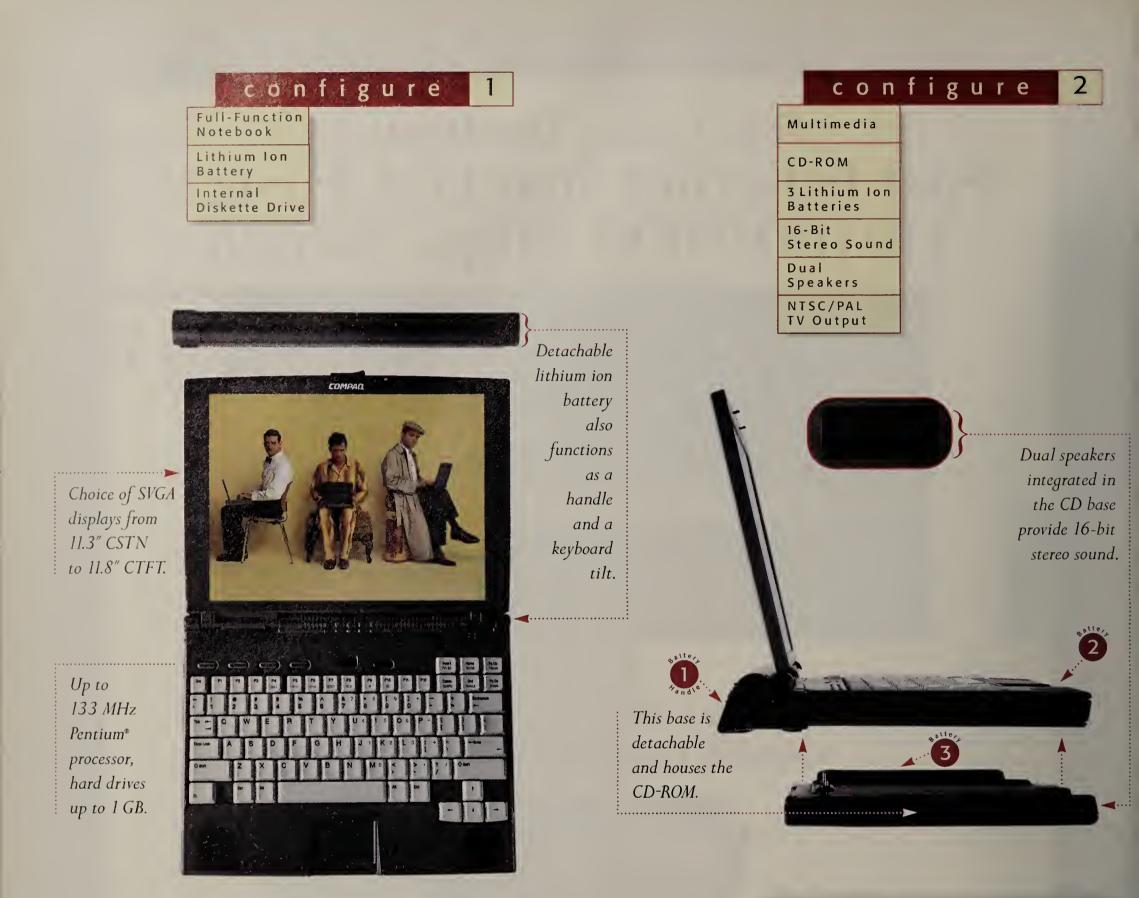


The MegaSwitch II leaves nothing to the imagination -- it gives users a unique upgrade path with 10Mbps to 100Mbps to GigaBit Ethernet all in one box. This switch offers 10/100 auto-negotiation with full-duplex on each port, as well as high powered ATM and GigaBit Ethernet uplinks. Its Smart Flow Control and singlemode fiber optic capabilities ensures zero packet loss even for remote links of 110 km. Finally, RMON management and Inter-Switch VLAN capability offers the net manager complete control over the entire network.

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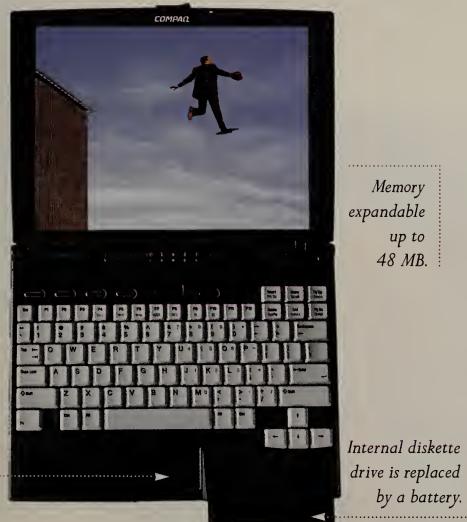


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Client/Server Applications

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Briefs

Retrieval Systems, Inc. in Wellesley, Mass., this week will announce a version of its Insight into Information text retrieval software that includes a module for publishing information on the World-Wide Web or corporate



into Information includes the Netsight component, which automatically converts information from desktop publishing tools and word processing applications into HTML pages. Available next month, Insight runs on Windows NT servers and supports industrystandard Web browsers. Pricing starts at \$7,500.

Enigma: (617) 239-8279.

DataBeam Corp. in Lexington, Ky., this week will ship its net.120 Conference Server, software that lets users with HTML browsers participate in collabo-

rative data conferences over the Internet or corporate intranets. Users with Web browsers may view presentations and documents, and users with T.120-compliant conferencing applications may also share applications, edit live documents and annotate on whiteboards.

The net.120 Conference Server runs on Window NT and Unix, and supports most Web servers. Pricing starts at \$495 for an 8-user server license.

DataBeam: (606) 245-3500.

wideoServer, Inc. has unveiled two entry-level Multimedia Conference Servers that cost 50% less than similar configurations previously offered by the company Models 2007-4 and 2007-8, available immediately, start at \$22,000. The devices are available in configurations supporting up to four or up to eight conference end points.

VideoServer: (617) 229-2000.

GroupWise 5 is here, but is it too late?

Novell's client/server-based messaging system hits as users eye Internet-based products.

By Barb Cole

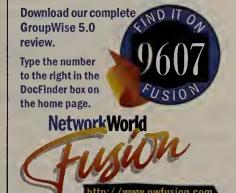
Orem, Utah

Novell, Inc. launched its long-awaited client/server messaging system last week, but industry watchers remain skeptical about the product's long-term prospects.

Concerns about the viability of GroupWise 5 result from the recent management upheaval at Novell and the fact that the package hits at a time when customers are looking for products that support Internet protocols.

"[Novell] essentially has a proprietary platform [in Group-Wise 5], and all the momentum is moving toward the 'Net,' said Rob Enderle, an analyst at Giga Information Group in Santa Clara, Calif.

The hurdles facing Group-Wise are no different from those surrounding Lotus Develop-



ment Corp. Notes and Microsoft Corp. Exchange. However, Microsoft and Lotus have deeper pockets and have responded with aggressive plans to support Internet protocols.

Novell plans to do the same, but observers questioned whether it has the financial resources, marketing prowess and brand strength to ride the 'Net wave

"The window of opportunity for GroupWise is more of a marketing one than a technical one," said Ronni Marshak, an analyst at Patricia Seybold Group, Inc. in Boston. "I don't know what [Novell] has decided to be in this generation."

In terms of features, Group-Wise is a strong offering, analysts said. In addition to its Universal Inbox, Group-Wise 5 offers threaded conversations and document management capabilities.

Brian Anderson, an information technology specialist at Auburn University in Auburn, Ala., and a GroupWise 5 beta tester, acknowledged, "[Novell] hasn't done a very good job of marketing GroupWise, and it's been criticized for that."

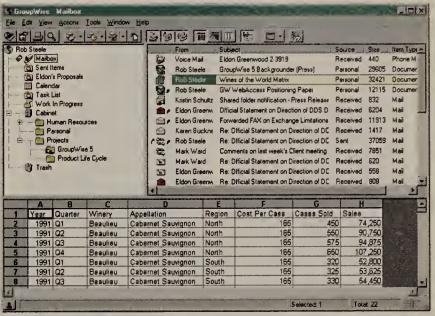
However, the company has made great strides in exploiting TCP/IP and client/server, and rolling out an API for customizing GroupWise, Anderson said. "They are opening up the architecture, and we're happy about that," he said.

Novell is also working to improve its Internet image. GroupWise 5.0 will support Simple Mail Transfer Protocol, Multi-purpose Internet Mail Extensions and other popular and emerging Internet mail standards.

client software, the NWAdmin administration module, remote asynchronous and X.25 gateways, Message Transfer Agent and Message Handling Service (MHS) gateways, and more.

Our GroupWise 5 review finds that Novell has pulled off a successful revamping of its groupware offering. Page 113.

GroupWise client versions for Windows 95, Windows NT and Windows 3.1 will be available next month, as will WebAccess



From the GroupWise 5 Universal Mallbox, users can access any GroupWise feature and navigate to any document, mail message or folder item.

Novell is sticking with its current GroupWise pricing scheme, hoping it will woo customers. GroupWise 5 starts at \$718 for a 5-user license and goes up to \$32,625 for a 250-user license. It comes with desktop and remote

for GroupWise 5. Novell will ship servers for NetWare 4 and Net-Ware 3 simultaneously. Macintosh and Unix clients and servers will be available in the first quarter of 1997.

ONovell: (801) 321-7300.

Microsoft moves beyond ODBC

By John Cox

Redmond, Wash.

Microsoft Corp.'s release of its OLE DB Software Development Kit marks the company's latest step to make its Component Object Model (COM) a foundation for corporate distributed computing.

Version 1.0 of the SDK is expected to be widely used by software vendors and at least some large MIS groups, initially to give Windows applications access to relational databases. Today, this is done by writing low-level code that uses Microsoft's more complex Open Database Connectivity (ODBC) interface.

But programmers are expected to quickly use OLE DB to do what the older interface was

not designed for: to access all kinds of nonrelational data on the network.

OLE DB is a COM specification that defines a standard way to present data from a source such as a database, log file or spreadsheet, or to see data via an application or tool. It's like an audience wearing cardboard 3-D glasses to see the 3-D effects in a movie.

Using a single, object-oriented interface, developers will be able to access log files, text documents, spreadsheets and images and, more importantly, query or update this information.

Microsoft also will promote OLE DB as an internal data shar-See OLE, page 65

Praxis attacks the problem of moving data across the enterprise

By John Cox

Framingham, Mass.

Praxis International, Inc. this week will unveil software that gives network administrators a central point of control from which to define and manage the flow of information across multivendor databases.

Three products will be announced under the Omni-Enterprise label:

- OmniDirector, a graphical tool for setting up and administering data movement.
- OmniCopy, software for copy-

ing tables between databases.

OmniLoader, a program for creating large, new databases from existing data sources.

The company, based here, also will announce the External Data Source API, which is an option that lets Praxis' existing OmniReplicator software incorporate and copy data from custom or proprietary data sources.

The new products, along with OmniReplicator, are aimed not only at data warehouse applications, but also at the broader

See Praxis, page 69

ODI desktop database opens Web doors

By John Cox

Burlington, Mass.

Object Design, Inc. (ODI) this week will introduce a stripped-down object database designed for desktop multimedia Web applications written in Java or C++.

A major shortcoming of today's browser applications is that downloaded

components, in effect, are used once and then thrown away. ODI's new ObjectStore Persistent Storage Engine (PSE) Pro can be downloaded via the World-Wide Web to a client PC, where it stores and manages Java applets and C++ objects.

To allow this, ODI crafted PSE as a compact subset of its server object-oriented

database product, dubbed ObjectStore. A freeware version of the basic PSE product is available from ODI's Web site (http://www.odi.com).

The Pro version of PSE, which offers features such as transaction support and data integrity, can be downloaded for free until Oct. 15. After that, it will cost \$450.

PSE Pro for Java is written entirely in Java (there is also a version in C++), so it can be downloaded as part of an applet.

PSE Pro then acts as a data storage and management service for the applet, said Pat O'Brian, an ODI product manager. With PSE Pro running, for example, an applet that tracks and updates end-user Web document preferences can stay alive

See ODI, page 69

RealityCheck

Product

Object Design's ObjectStore PSE Pro

The benefits

- ▲ Web-downloadable application components can be stored permanently on desktop
- ▲ Database supports range of data integrity and reliability features missing from Web clients

The drawbacks

- ▼ Early beta versions forced developers to write some code, though next beta will correct this
- ▼ First release lacks support for OLE Automation

The user view

"It's very well integrated with Java... Our developers have been impressed with the stability of the product."

Eric Magleby, vice president of marketing, Alta Software Inc., Reston, Va.

39

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 and DOS includes a 32-bit VxD TCP/IP stack
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BusinessBriefs

Dennis McEvoy is leaving database vendor **Sybase, inc.**, where he was president of the

Enterprise Business Group, to take over as executive vice president of products and services at **Verity, Inc.**, a Mountain View, Calif., document retrieval software vendor. McEvoy was in charge of database server development and,



McEvoy

more recently, communications software at Sybase. He is generally credited with guiding the release of Sybase SQL Server System 11, which overcame a range of scaling and quality problems in System 10. Succeeding McEvoy is David Litwack, who previously was president of the Powersoft Business Group. Litwack will oversee all Sybase development as executive vice president for products.

PeopleSoft, inc. In Pleasanton, Calif., has announced plans to acquire Red Pepper Software Co. In San Mateo, Calif. Red Pepper sells software called ResponseAgents, which resides on network computers and monitors a wide range of manufacturing variables. PeopleSoft embedded the Red Pepper software in its Enterprise Resource Planning product released earlier this year.

ATM STANDARDS READY, SET, GO!

ATM Forum Standar	ds Matrix	FORE
AIM To		Compliant
	DEFINED	Compa
ure		YES
Emulation 1.0		YES
LAN Emulation Server (LES), LAN Emulation Client (LEC) LAN Emulation Configuration Server (LECS), Broadcast Unknown Server (BUS)	V	YES
LAN Emulation Configuration (BUS) Broadcast Unknown Server (BUS)		YES
Bioacci		YES
sical IP		1100
Address Registration		
Address Resolution		
II 3.X Signaling, IISP Routing	201	YES
vitched Virtual Circuits (SVCs)		YES
Point-to-point	Mad	
Point-to-multipoint		YES
OSI NSAP Address		YES
DCC ATM Format		YES
ICD ATM Format		YES
Format Format		YES
Signaling AAL (including SSCF, SSCOP)		YES
Public UNI	V	
Fubic		
PNNI		YES
Physical Layer Interfaces Physical Layer Interfaces Physical Layer Interfaces Physical Layer Interfaces		YES
Physical Layer Interfaces OC-3c/STM-1 SONET/SDH @ 155.52 Mbps, Fiber OC-3c/STM-1 SONET/SDH @ 155.52 Mbps, UTP-5		YES
OC-3c/STM-1 SONET/SDH @ 155.52 Mbps, UTP-5 STS-3c/STM-1 SONET/SDH @ 155.52 Mbps, UTP-5		YES
= 22 @ 44 730 MIDDS		YES
DS3 @ 44.7300 TAXI (4B/5B) @ 100 Mbps		YES
72 @ 34 368 Mbps		YES
DS1 (T1) @ 1.544 Mbps		YES
E1 @ 2.048 Mbps		YES
J2 @ 6.312 Mbps OC-12c/STM-4c SONET/SDH @ 622.08 Mbps, Fiber		YES
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ATM Layer Specifications ATM Layer Functions Involved at the UNI (U-plane) ATM Layer Functions Involved at the UNI (Tagging)		YES
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FORE

As a network manager, you need to know two things about ATM standards.

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Standards progesss

Vendors rally around 'Net calendaring spec

More than 35 vendors to support Versit's vCalendar, which defines how calendaring apps can work together.

By Barb Cole

Atlanta

An industry group this week will publish an interoperability specification for plan-

ning meetings over the Internet that could be key to the development of a full-blown Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) group calendaring spec.

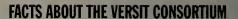
The Versit industry group, driven by IBM, Siemens AG and Lucent Technologies, will unveil Version 1.0 of its vCalendar specification, which defines how users

of disparate calendaring applications can make appointments over the 'Net, intranets and LANs.

The development of a calendaring and scheduling specification for the 'Net has become a popular subject as of late. Net-scape Communications Corp. this summer hosted dozens of software developers at its Internet Calendaring Summit and announced plans to spearhead creation of such a protocol.

Separately, Lotus Development Corp. talked up its plans to push its own Internet Calendaring Access Protocol (ICAP) as a way for users to make appointments via the Internet.

Analysts and representatives from the industry groups, however, said that this is not a case of dueling standards. In fact, the Lotus effort is based on vCalendar, and all of these calendaring specifications are likely to be submitted to the IETF and incorporated into an overall calendaring standard, analysts said.



- Founded by Apple, AT&T, IBM and Siemens
- Developing specs for interoperability among communications and computing devices, applications, networks and services
- Creating specs based on existing standards and making the specs publicly available
- Not involved in building commercial products

"Versit is yet another potential structure and format that could be filed with the IETF," said Ron Rassner, an analyst at Creative Networks, Inc., a consultancy and market research firm in Palo Alto, Calif. "I'd like to think that there won't be a lot of rework [within the IETF] because [vCalendar] provides a solid format on which to build the ongoing standard," he said.

The work under way by Lotus, Netscape and others addresses some of the broader, collaborative issues of running scheduling applications over the 'Net, Rassnersaid.

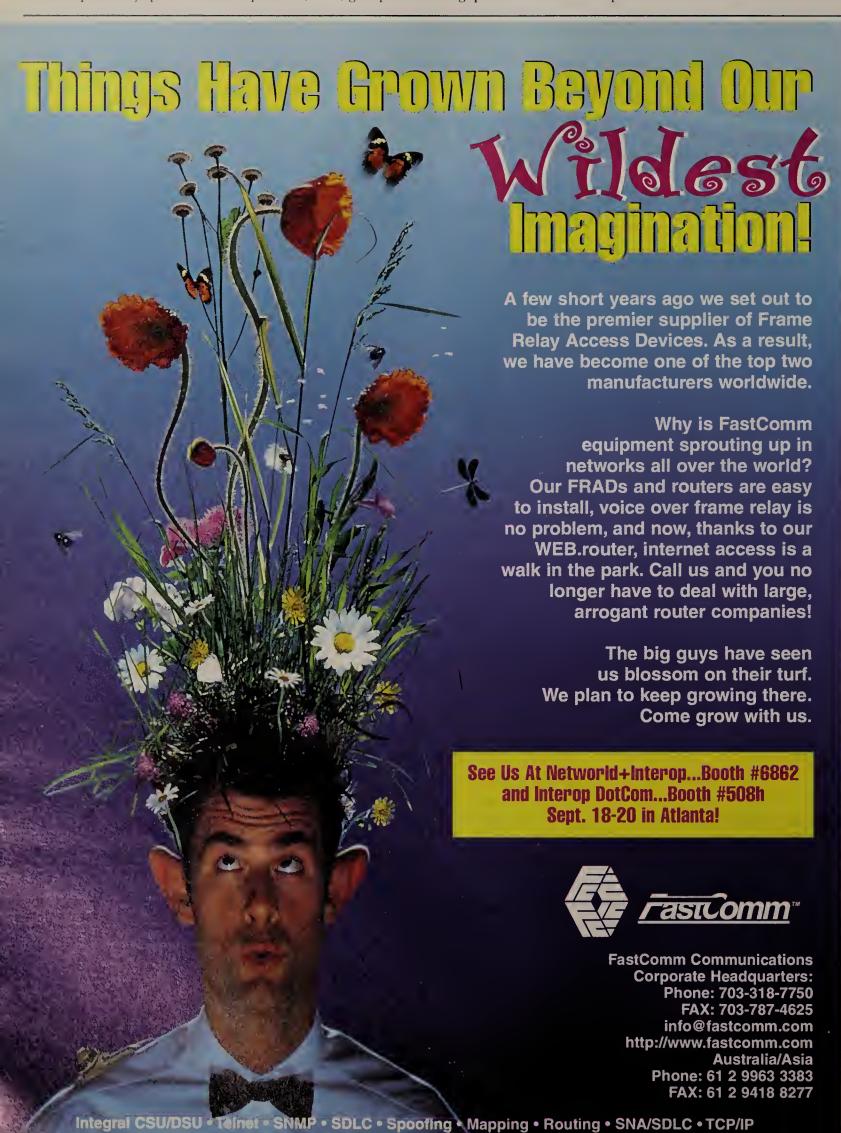
Indeed, vCalendar provides a basic format for capturing and exchanging events and action items, and defines how attachments may be passed between calendaring applications. Lotus' ICAP and the Netscape-led work are expected to solve the problem of how the software should respond when a scheduling conflict arises between applications.

More than 35 vendors — including CE Software Corp., Goldmine Software Corp., Lotus and Novell, Inc. — last week said they will support vCalendar in their meeting software.

The Netscape-led group has yet to produce a published spec, but it has garnered support from a herd of software developers.

The vCalendar spec may be down-loaded from Versit's home page (www.versit.com/pdi).

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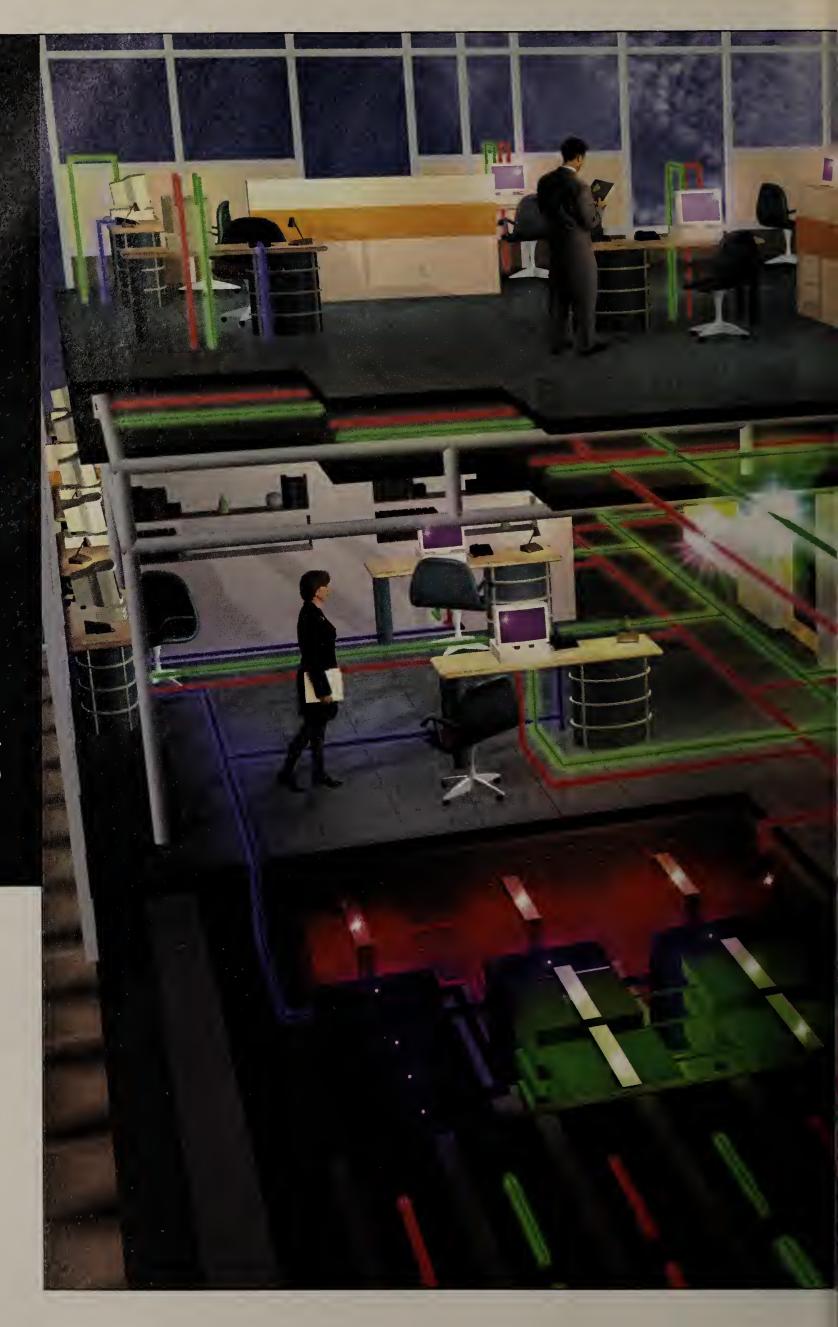
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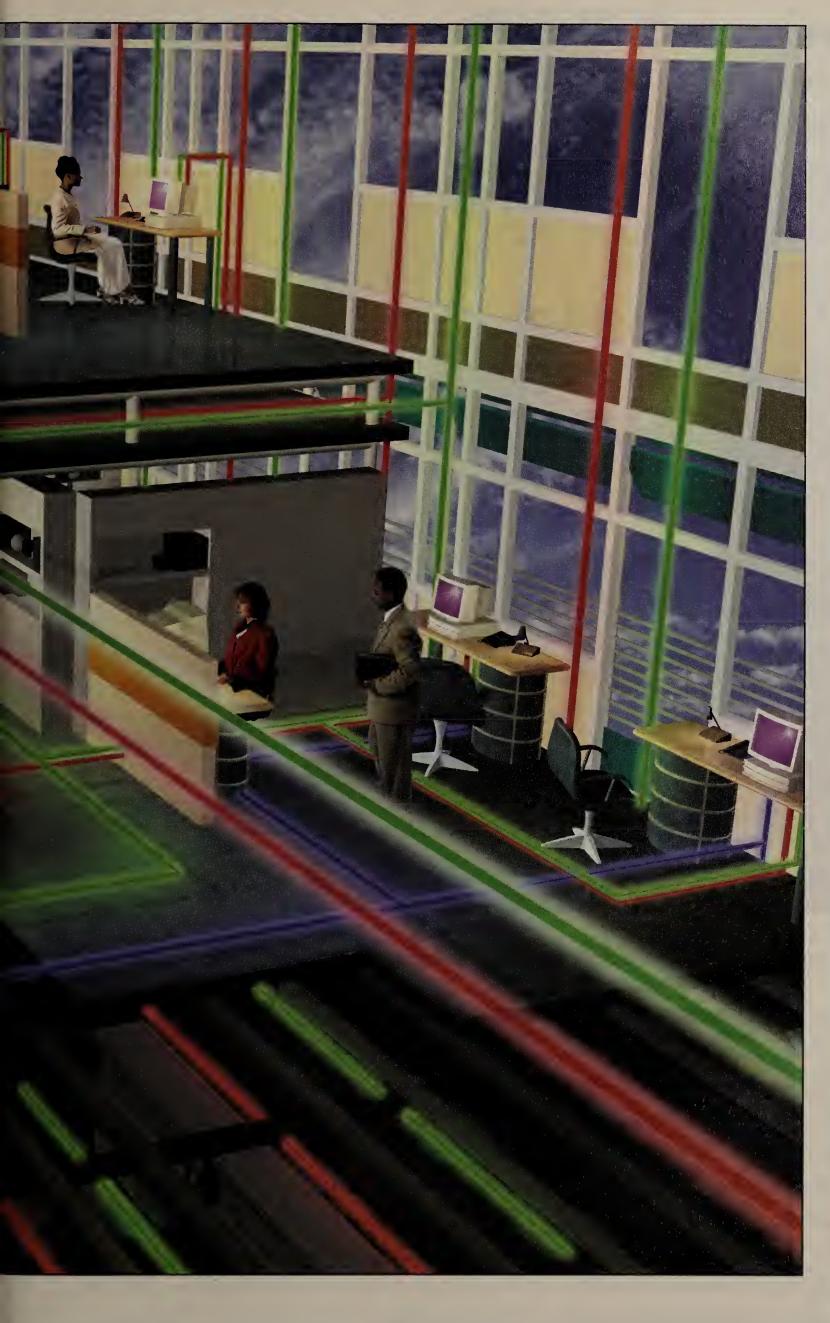
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Document management on a budget

Exploiting the hooks between Docs Open and Microsoft Office applications helped one travel agency implement a cost-effective system.

By Barb Cole

Peterborough, U.K.

The Thomas Cook company has found a better way for the refund applications streaming into its customer service center

to travel: through a document management system that is tightly linked to its E-mail and desktop applications.

The automated document management system has greatly improved the

travel company's efficiency in processing claims from customers whose traveler's checks have been lost or stolen. In addition, the system has enabled Thomas Cook to launch a successful service in which it handles claims processing for other companies.

Previously, Thomas Cook processed claims using a largely manual and paperintensive process. Some case tracking information was stored on a mainframe accessed with dumb terminals.

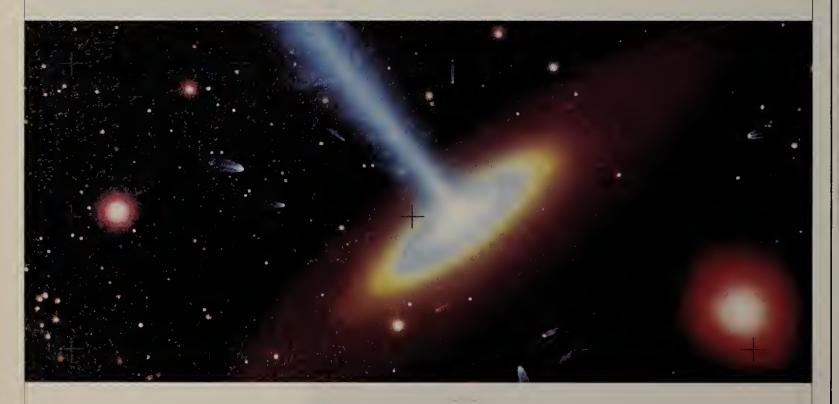
The key to the new client/server document management system, based on PC DOCS, Inc. Docs Open software, is that it has strong hooks to messaging, word processing and other applications in Microsoft Corp.'s Office suite. This has enabled Thomas Cook to avoid the expense of applications customization that is often involved in deploying a document management system.

Thomas Cook's Refund Management System processes refunds on lost or stolen traveler's checks issued all over the world. Claim forms from customers are typically faxed into the customer service center.

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The bottom line

Thomas Cook made a significant initial investment in its document management system, but the system should eliminate expenditures the company would otherwise have had to make in building its outsourcing service for travel check refunds.

Document management system component	initial cost	Projected year 1 cost
Servers	\$30,000	\$0
Fax server	\$7,500	\$0
Gateways	\$9,000	\$0
Printers	\$18,000	\$0
Systems integration	\$300,000	\$0
Software	\$75,000	\$0
Support	\$45,000	\$45,000
Total per period	\$484,500	\$45,000

Area of savings	initial savings	Projected year 1 savings
Hiring	\$1,320,000	\$1,320,000
Temporary help	\$20,000	\$20,000
Office space	\$300,000	\$300,000
Total savings	\$1,640,000	\$1,640,000

Fax software automatically shoots incoming refund claim forms to Docs Open in-boxes on workers' PCs. The claim form is displayed on the PC — typically a Windows 95-based 486 machine with 12M to 16M bytes of RAM and 200M to 500M bytes of disk space.

Fax images of claim forms are stored on a Compaq Computer Corp. server, and an IBM RISC 6000 server running Sybase, Inc. SQL Server holds accompanying data.

About 100 users of the Refund Management System have icons on their Windows desktops for Docs Open and the Microsoft Office applications, as well as an icon to access the mainframe application that preceded the client/server system. This December, the company will add another 100 Refund Management System stations on its 16M bit/sec token-ring network.

The links between the Refund Management System and Microsoft Office have helped to make the project a success, according to Paul Borrell, business project manager for Thomas Cook's customer service team.

As part of the refund procedure, the claims officer selects a form letter — one of hundreds the division has stored in Microsoft Word — which is automatically faxed back to the claimant or travel office. In addition, links between Microsoft Mail and the mainframe application let users

See Docs Open, page 65



"I started running OS/2 Warp Server on all my networks and guess what?

My rainy days are over."

Consolidate

It was time to think about consolidating the company's mixed environment network onto

one operating system. That's why Steve Conaway, Director of Computer Services at the Financial Times, decided to check out the new release of OS/2® Warp Server.

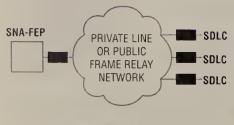
In no time at all, Steve was waxing poetic over OS/2 Warp Server's ability to handle blockbuster-sized databases and make Internet and intranet access a breeze. He was also impressed with all the advanced printing capabilities and management features that simplified the running of both his network and his life. Which is why Steve now thinks of OS/2 Warp Server as his umbrella network operating system.

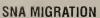


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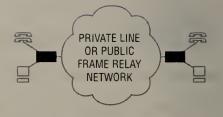
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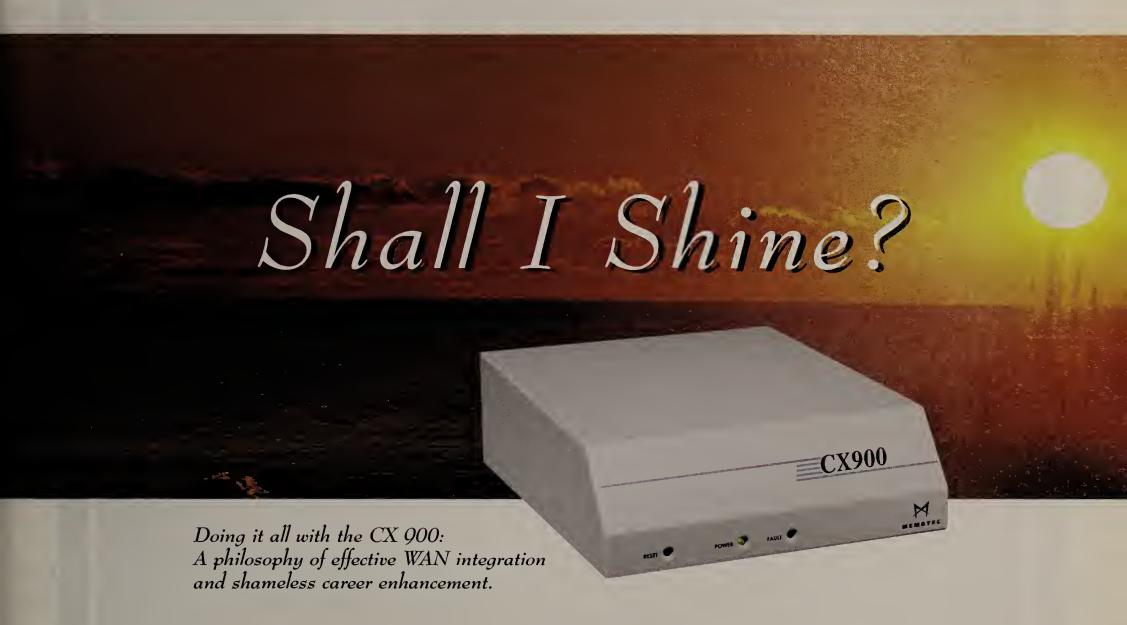


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OLE

Continued from page 53

ing mechanism that can be used to recast existing software applications as a group of separate components glued together with OLE DB, according to Greg Nelson, Microsoft senior product manager for data access.

"You can build [OLE DB] very deeply into your application development tool, for example, so that every data access done by the tool is done via OLE DB," he said.

But that is probably a long way off. Initially, OLE DB is expected to be used mainly as a simpler way to access ODBC data.

OLE DB Software Development Kit 1.0

- Based on Microsoft's Component Object Model (COM); will support Distributed COM by year-end
- Includes tools for building object-oriented data access interfaces to nonrelational data on the network
- ► Features special "bridge" software that lets OLE DB applications and development tools work with existing and future Open Database Connectivity software to access relational databases
- ► Will support connectionless sessions over the Internet by year-end

"Microsoft has built [management of data access into OLE DB], so this is handled invisibly to the client application," said Michael McLean, general manager for developer products at Simba Technologies, Inc., an ODBC software vendor.

"There are fewer calls for the programmer to worry about," he said.

Docs Open

Continued from page 60

send information still stored on the mainframe via E-mail. Users may also exploit Schedule+ to trigger workflows to resolve a claim.

The document management system has helped Thomas Cook double its volume of business while adding only about 33% more staff, according to Borrell.

Lessons learned

While the application has been well received, there were some hurdles along the way, according to Borrell.

He found that the stored images from resolved claims and pending claims were quickly filling up the Compaq server's hard disk.

"We went through a period where we were buying up extra hard disks like crazy," he said. "We then decided to move unused images off to optical disks," he said.

In addition, the drastic shift from dumb terminals and paper to Windows PCs in just a few months put a big burden on the workers.

"We implemented too much change at once; we should have phased it in more," Borrell said. ■

The Microsoft SDK includes two software modules to support OLE DB and ODBC interoperability. One module lets OLE DB applications work with ODBC. The other lets ODBC applications work with OLE DB data sources, which Microsoft calls providers.

ODBC vendors such as Simba and Intersoly, Inc. have already announced their existing products have been made compatible with OLE DB.

"We're able to protect our customers' investments in ODBC," said McLean. Simba next plans to create a native OLE DB driver to communicate with OLE DB data sources, and finally, a complete SDK of its own.

"This approach lets our customers adopt [gradually] object-oriented methodologies into their application development process," he said.

One critical piece missing from the

SDK is support for Distributed COM (DCOM), which Nelson said will be available by year-end.

DCOM lets COM objects communicate over the network. Until DCOM is available with the SDK, OLE DB will be limited to the desktop or to interfacing with ODBC software.

The OLE DB SDK is free and available now at Microsoft's World-Wide Web site (http://www.microsoft.com/oledb/).



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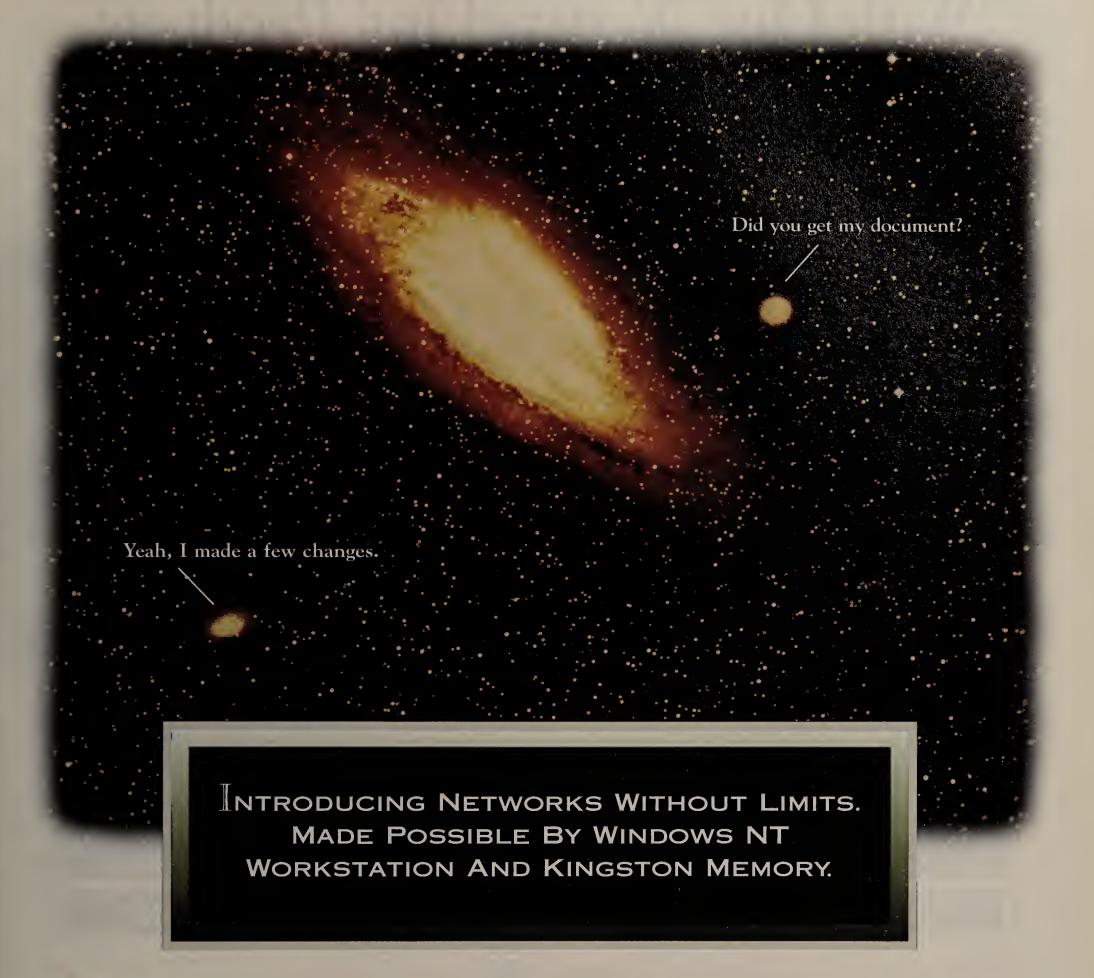
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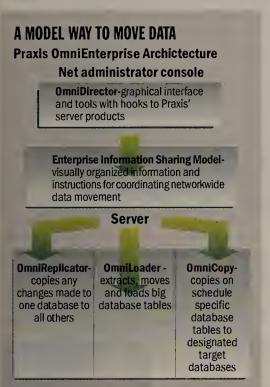
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Praxis

Continued from page 53

issue of moving data where and when its needed across the enterprise, according to Don DePalma, a senior analyst at Forrester Research, Inc. in Cambridge, Mass.

"They've got a really good product solution [for this problem], especially relative to your favorite database vendor or to [specialized] data warehouse vendors," he said.



Perhaps the key innovation is the ability to create with OmniDirector's graphical tools a visual representation of the instructions and information for moving

data among networked servers. Dubbed

The new tools let companies create an application model that tells OmniReplicator as well as two

new server programs how to move data over a

ODI

Continued from page 54

within the local browser.

Through ODI's middleware, PSE Pro can share data easily with server-based ObjectStore databases, O'Brian said.

"We're just starting to think of new applications that we couldn't do before [without local persistent storage]," said Eric Magleby, vice president of marketing at Alta Software, Inc., a Reston, Va., distributed object consulting company and PSE Pro beta site.

PSE Pro will let developers create applications that download advanced object models from ObjectStore servers, then use these models in handling complex financial transactions that take hours or days to complete.

PSE Pro for Java uses less than 250K bytes of memory. It is compatible with a range of popular Java development tools and runs on Windows 95, Windows NT 3.51 and 4.0, and Solaris 2.4 and 2.5.

The C++ version needs less than 300K bytes of memory and is compatible with ANSI C++ and Microsoft Foundation Classes. It runs on Windows 95 and Windows NT.

©ODI: (617) 674-5000.

the Enterprise Information Sharing Model (EISM), this information includes logical names and addresses of the source and target databases, the specific data that needs to be moved, copying schedules, what changes should be made to specific data elements and middleware connections.

"The EISM lets customers model their entire enterprise with the GUI and our schema language interface," said Jeannine Bartlett, Praxis' director of product marketing. "It simplifies the entire setup and management of the [database] nodes."

OmniLoader is aimed at selecting large tables or entire databases and loading them into a new database, such as a data warehouse. OmniCopy captures specific tables at a moment in time and copies them over the net to the designated targets. The existing OmniReplicator is able

to capture small changes to data and copy these to networked databases almost at once.

The products work with most popular server databases.

Pricing is based on each target and source database, and ranges from \$1,000 to \$90,000 in each case. OmniDirector is included in the price. All products will be available by year-end.

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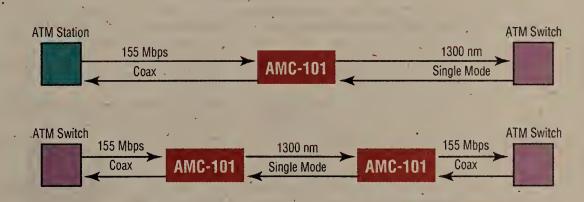
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SHARED LOGIC

Let's put an end to those YETAs

or years, network directories have bedeviled customers.

Every application contains what Kim Cameron, chief scientist at Zoomit International, Inc., calls a YETA—short for Yet Another Directory. Every

directory provides a different schema and structure for naming information. Daniel Blum could appear in a network operating system directory as "dblum," in the personnel directory as "Daniel Blum" and in an E-mail directory as "blumd." Multiple administrators must be involved in the costly process of adding or deleting a user from the directory. There is no single repository that a user or application can access to obtain consolidated information. Coveted single login capabilities remain on the drawing board.

Distributed client/server applications are directory-disabled instead of enabled.

However, there is light at the end of the directory tunnel.

Already, the Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) has received significant vendor backing. LDAP provides a standards-based client/server directory protocol and an API. Vendors of new applications should now plan on coding LDAP calls instead of building YETAs — or be whipped with a wet noodle in the market. Thanks to LDAP, there should be no new YETAs. Unfortunately, integrating or exterminating existing YETAs is a much harder problem because it involves complex server-to-server directory interactions and interoperability with legacy directories.

Before standards-based technology can emerge to solve directory integration problems, there must exist a common model for such technology. Here's where X.500 was supposed to step in. However, like many standards, X.500 presumes displacement rather than coexistence with legacy systems.

Fortunately, a new metadirectory model seems to be emerging. At the July Burton Group Network Applications Consortium conference, Craig Burton presented his organization's "Meta-Directory Services" paper.

Meta directories provide the ability to join multiple directories using synchronization techniques and a superset of the

name space in each directory. For example, a meta directory enables LDAP and Web access to entries for all corporate employees, and distributes a complete list of cor-



Daniel Blum

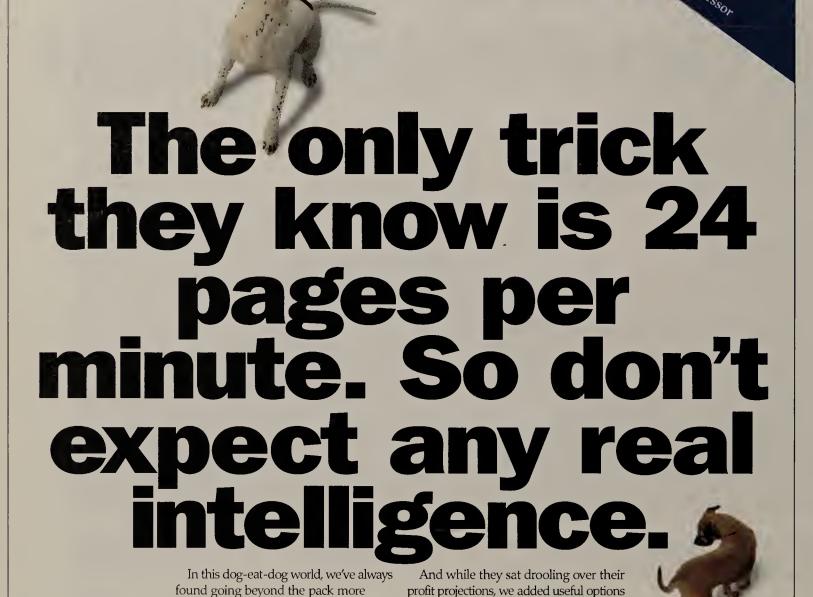
porate E-mail addresses to legacy E-mail directories accessible through their native user interfaces.

During synchronization, meta directories enable rule-based exclusion of objects and attribute filtering. When synchronizing a corporate directory with NetWare 4.X, for example, you might want to obtain the user objects but not printers. When loading a personnel database into a more accessible corporate directory, filter out the salary attribute.

The meta directory must solve organizational and political problems, not create them. This means that it must be flexible enough to work smoothly within a variety of administrative models. It must be flexible enough to operate as the creator of data, the reflector of data, or even both simultaneously.

Directories are a problem today, but they will get fixed. LDAP is providing the industry with the breathing space it needs to move forward toward meta directories. Vendors should recognize the reality that directory enabling is too complex a problem for anyone to solve alone, and either provide or work with the meta directory solutions that will be coming out later in 1996 and 1997.

Blum is a principal at Rapport Communication, a consultancy that focuses on messaging, groupware and electronic commerce. He can be reached at dblum@interramp.com.



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Intranets & the 'Net

Covering: Internet Technologies and Services for Collaboration and Electronic Commerce

Briefs

Cylink Corp. announced that its SecureAccess product family now uses a 128-bit proprietary encryption algorithm called CEPA for encrypting Email or files. According to Jim Omura, Cylink's acting chief executive officer, CEPA is stronger than the Data Encryption Standard (DES).

In addition, government regulations make it easier for users to export encryption products with proprietary algorithms. The SecureAccess system will now use both DES and CEPA, automatically switching from one to another when encrypted documents are transferred to it.

Culink: (408) 523-5993.

■ According to Network Systems, Inc., its BorderGuard firewall has successfully completed a testing regime called Security Proof of Concept Keystone devised by the National Security Agency (NSA). Among other things, the NSA tests for protection against IP spoofing and the prevention of unauthorized access to public-key information during key exchange. ■ Burlingame, Calif.-based start-up Hi/fn, Inc. this week will unveil a line of microchips and software that combines data

compression with encryption in a way said to reduce network bandwidth requirements bya 4-to-1 ratio. Hi/fn said it is now licensing the technology. Hi/fn: (619) 794-4550.

■ Japan's Keio University has joined the World Wide Web Consortium to work closely



with two otherorganithe Laboratory

for Computer Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the French National Research Institute for research in Computer Science and Control. Tokyo-based Keio University will provide technical expertise and connections to Pacific Rim industry for development of the World-Wide Web.

Banks invest in multimillion dollar cyberbanking network

By Ellen Messmer

New York

Fifteen banks and IBM are investing millions to build a network that will let customers

access banking applications from the Internet and private online services.

Once the network, called Integrion, is up and running early next year, bank customers using Web browsers will be able to pay bills online, check their accounts and transfer funds between them. The companies have not yet specified what security model they will use.

Integrion will not be as simple as putting up a secured Web site. IBM will have to score a systems integration triumph for Integrion to become the "all things to all people" network the banks

The banks are loathe to abandon other types of remote-banking technologies they have invested in over the years, including screen phones and

Banks investing in Integrion

ABN Amro Banc One Bank of America Barnett Bank Comerica First Bank Systems First Chicago NBD Fleet Financial Group KeyCorp Mellon Bank Michigan National Bank NationsBank **PNC Bank** Royal Bank of Canada **Washington Mutual**

The Integrion network, expected to debut next year, will let a customer bank over the Internet or private online services from a remote PC.

> online access through personal financial software, such as Microsoft Money or Intuit, Inc.'s Quicken.

> Through Integrion, the IBM Global Network will provide billpaying services, putting it in competition with Checkfree

Corp., the third-party service provider that now holds 65% of the market.

IBM expects to earn revenues from Integrion based on transactional services such as bill-paying. Banc One Corp. and NationsBank, N.A. are going to be the first two institutions to go online in a pilot targeted for early next year.

"We're going to give them the ability to greet each customer with their own logo and to fortify their own banking relationship," said Lou Gerstner, IBM's chief executive officer, flanked by bank executives here during last week's announcement.

"By going together to build the system, we think there will be economies of scale," said John McCov, chairman and CEO of Banc One.

The Integrion alliance, which will operate as a separate company, will be working to set electronic commerce standards such as those for bill-paying, McCoy

Gerstner said the Integrion network, which will eventually tie into utilities, retailers and airline networks for electronic commerce, will be based on open standards to be published in the near future.



"The APIs will be open and published so anyone who wants can build hardware and software forit," he said.

The banks' efforts to go online, which they acknowledge have not been terribly successful to date, last year shifted into high gear after Bill Gates, Microsoft Corp.'s outspoken chief executive, derided the banks as "dinosaurs."

First Union readies Web-based home banking

By Ellen Messmer

Charlotte, N.C.

By year-end, First Union Corp. plans to transform its Web site from the simple advertising role it plays today into an interactive home-banking and bill-paying medium.

First Union's Web site will become a place where the bank's 12 million customers across the country, using browsers with encryption support, can go to check accounts or transfer

A key element of the plan was the integration of the bank's back-end databases with the Web. In turning for help, First Union did not go looking for the lastest hotshot Web consultancy. Instead, the bank looked close to home and picked its long-time supplier of voice response units (VRU), InterVoice, Inc.

A VRU provider that knows Web standards, such as Java, Open Database Connectivityand Common Gateway Interface?

"We've been doing a lot of

innovative things with them," explained Linda Gilch, vice president of First Union's automation division. "And they already have the [technical] knowledge about our bill-payment service provider."

InterVoice will be connecting First Union's secure Open Market, Inc. Web server to InterVoice HTTP middleware called VisualConnect. Visual-Connect is a bridge between Web servers, corporate databases and third-party bill-paying networks.

VisualConnect is also the Web piece of a larger

transaction-processing platform, OneVoice, which runs on an IBM OS/2-based system. The OneVoice software includes interfaces for handling user-initiated transactions between different networks. These could include the Internet, banking screen phones, fax machines, touch-tone interactive response

or credit-card networks, such as Visa or MasterCard.

OneVoice has interfaces to IBM mainframes as well as Digital Equipment Corp. and Hewlett-Packard Co. minicomputers, and can communicate with data-



bases from Oracle Corp. and Sybase, Inc.

Using this common platform means that First Union could easily set up a way that Web users, for instance, could have information about banking services faxed to them.

> "We also have an interface to See First Union, page 76

Internet access is made easy

By Carol Sliwa

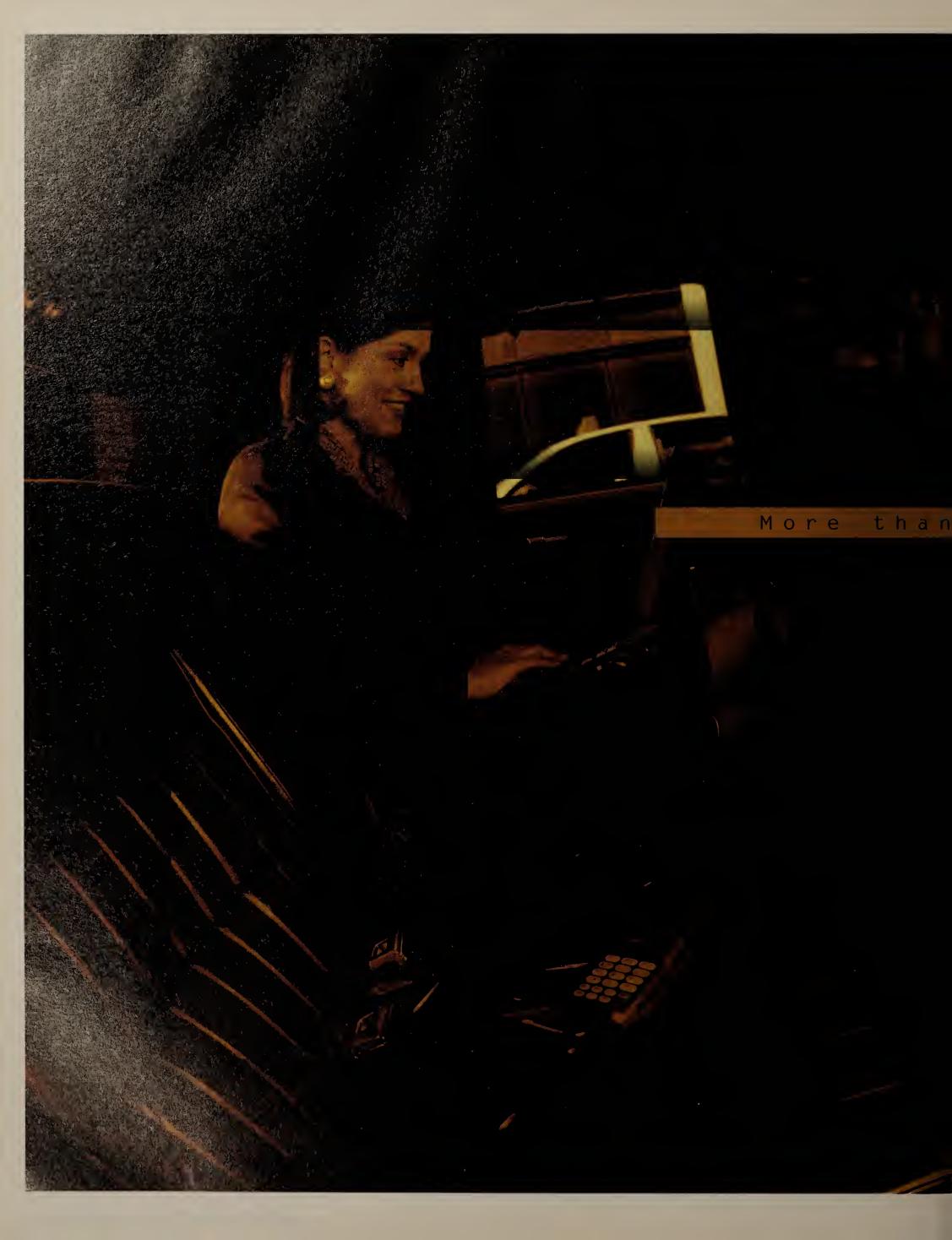
Foster City, Calif.

Silicon Valley start-up Whistle Communications, Inc. this week will unveil a toaster-shaped device designed to help small businesses, departments or remote offices, with one to 100 employees, hook in to the Inter-

Whistle's InterJet 100 software/hardware package will eliminate the need for companies to separately purchase Web server hardware and software. routers, E-mail software and firewall products, company officials

The product revolves around an 8M byte Intel 486-based server running Unix. It includes router software and a 1.2G byte hard drive. On the access side, it scales from 28.8K bit/sec to T-1 speeds; an integrated four-port hub; a built-in UPS power backup; and a 28.8K bit/sec modem for routing and out-ofband management.

Software bundled into the package includes an Apache See Whistle, page 79



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CyberGuard lights up firewall

Department of Defense certified operating system gives sense of security.

By Ellen Messmer

Atlanta

At NetWorld+Interop 96 this week, Cyber-Guard Corp. will unveil a new network firewall and a line of remote-access secu-

rity products that give organizations a way to control access from the Internet.

The CyberGuard Firewall 3.0 runs on an Intel-based Unix platform with a hardened operating system that meets the

Department of Defense's B2-level security requirements.

Previously, CyberGuard's firewall, used mostly by the military, had operated on the proprietary Nighthawk operating system and hardware.

Corporations that want to install several CyberGuard 3.0 firewalls, either to control access to the Internet or patrol LAN

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segments inside the corporate intranet, will be able to manage them all from a central location, said Katherine Hutchison,

CyberGuard's vice president of corporate development. CyberGuard is expected to cost about \$10,000.

CyberGuard, partnering with encryption provider Information Resource Engineering, Inc. (IRE), will also be demonstrating SafeNet Enterprise, a version of

the CyberGuard 3.0 firewall that can provide user authentication and data encryption. The SafeNet firewall is expected to start at \$13,995.

When users install SafeNet Soft, a \$25 Windows-based client using private-key or public-key encryption, they can authenticate their identities at the firewall with a

See CyberGuard, page 79



First Union

Continued from page 73

Netscape's CoolTalk Internet phone," said Mike Polcyn, InterVoice vice president of marketing.

"So we could take advantage of an Internet phone to play a stored message to person at the browser," he said.

With the knowledge that not everyone on the 'Net uses the same type of browser, First Union plans to set up its cyberbanking Web site to present information to cus-



First Union's Web site right now is just for advertising, but by year-end, it is going to become a medium for interactive home banking.

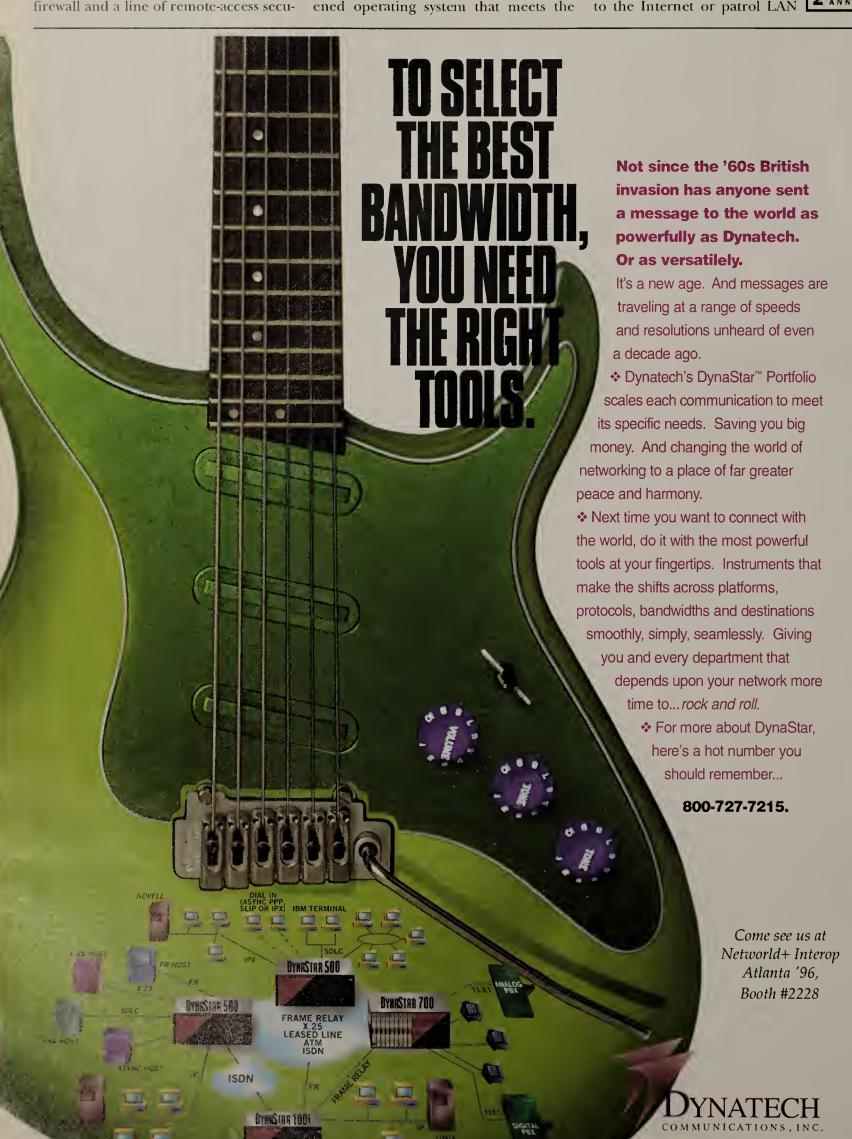
tomers in three ways: simple HTML; HTMLwith graphics; and Java.

"We're mainly using Java for visual impact, like rotating graphics," said Gilch, adding that Java still "needs more tools and a security model." But ideally, First Union would likely use Java on its Web site to expedite what-if calculations about investment strategies and market rates.

First Union was not part of the 15-member bank consortium that chose IBM as its partner last week to build the Integrion Financial Network (see related story, page 73).

While sketchily detailed, the IBM-built network is slated to provide similar billpaying and home-banking services for 15 banks, including NationsBank Corp., by early next year.

Gilch said First Union is not opposed to the IBM cyberbanking venture but is already well along with its own technical plans.



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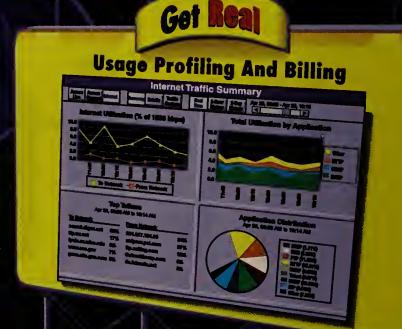
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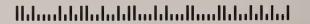
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Whistle

Continued from page 73

HTTP server, Adobe Systems, Inc.'s Page-Mill 2.0 Web publisher (one-user license), Qualcomm, Inc.'s Eudora Lite mail client (site license) and Netscape Communications Corp.'s Navigator 2.0 client (site license).



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CyberGuard

Continued from page 76

combination of an encryption key and a personal identification number.

"The user authentication and one time passwords are based on the ANSI X9.26

standard for challenge and response," Hutchison said. CyberGuard and IRE are also fielding a smart-card version of the client authentication software, costing about \$95.

In addition, Cyber-Guard and IRE have developed a \$695 portable secure modem running at 28.8K central management bit/sec that can also controls. play the client role,

Hutchison, VP of corporate development at CyberGuard, says the new Firewall will have

Internet

encrypting the data and authenticating the user.

The SafeNet product line will be offered with the Digital Encryption Standard algorithm, which is not easily exportable, or a 40-bit algorithm called Atlas, which is.

CyberGuard will be certifying resellers for the new security line under a program called Security Partner Alliance.

©CyberGuard: (800) 666-4544, Ext. 5615; Information Resource Engineering: (410) 931-7583.

marketing and business development.

Under the envisioned setup, customers simply will call up an ISP and specify the type of connections they want. The ISP then will send out a confirmation fax and ship the InterJet device.

The InterJet 100 hardware plugs into any Ethernet LAN at one end and a phone line at the other, whether standard dialon-demand 28.8K bit/sec, ISDN or frame

The customer types a registration code and phone number into InterJet's keypad located on the front of the hardware unit.

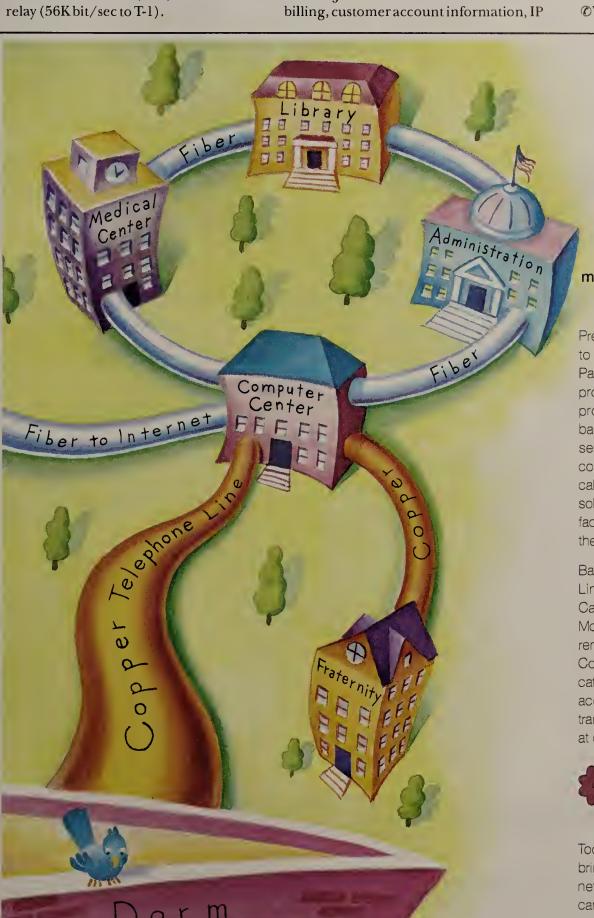
Then InterJet dials the ISP with the confirmation information and automatically configures the connection through InterJet Commander software running on the ISP's system. An ISP that supports the InterJet product is required.

InterJet Commander software handles

address databases, router configuration, Web site mirroring and E-mail store-andforward functions. Software agents running on the hardware at the InterJet customer site can monitor and manage various tasks of the machine, such as connection speeds and storage demands.

InterJet 100 will begin shipping in October for \$1,995. Leasing options also are available.

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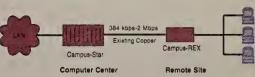


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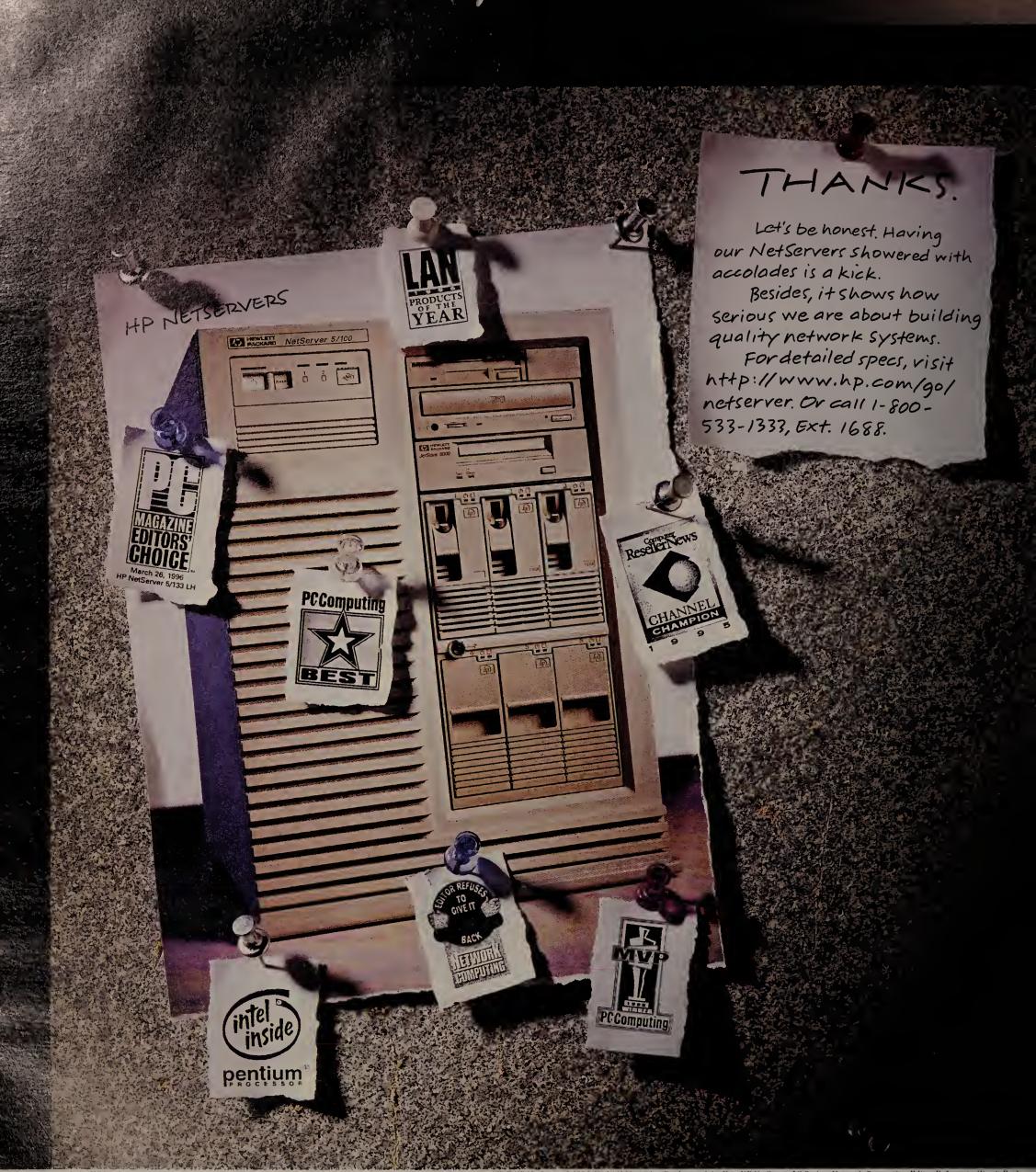
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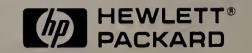
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Technology Update

Keeping Up with Network Technologies and Standards

NETWORK HELP DESK

Network World tracks down answers to your questions. Please submit them to Chris Nerney via phone at (800) 622-1108, Ext. 451, the Internet at cnerney@nww.com or fax at (508) 820-1103.

I'm evaluating the use of ATM for a corporatewide network, and someone mentioned that I could create a virtual private network (VPN) of sorts. He didn't really know how, though. Thanks for any help you can give me on this subject.

Via the Internet

Your colleague may be thinking about ATM virtual trunking. As we described in a recent Technology Update, ATM virtual trunking provides a way for companies to build hybrid public/private networks (NW, April 15, page 37). ATM virtual trunking is similar to the VPN services carriers offer for voice traffic. Unlike VPN service, however, virtual trunking relies more on private ATM switches than on carrier facilities, explains the article's author Simon Banks, enterprise networks marketing manager at StrataCom, Inc., (now Cisco Systems, Inc.'s Wide Area Network Business Unit)

The enterprise switches use virtual paths to extend congestion management and other value-added features across the public network, Banks says. With virtual trunking, network managers can centrally control remote ATM switches.

With virtual trunking, you'll also be able to run various-speed trunks from each of your corporate locations into the public ATM network. As Banks points out, this means a site with a 1.544M bit/sec trunk can connect to a site with a 155M bit/sec trunk using a virtual path while other sites connect at 45M bit/sec into the same location. Without virtual trunking, a point-to-point physical 45M bit/sec trunk would require a 45M bit/sec leased line, for example.

Virtual trunking also enables the use of enterprise-based switched virtual circuits over a public ATM network that does not directly support SVCs, Banks says. This is because virtual trunking lets enterprise ATM equipment create SVCs within the virtual paths crossing the public network.

You should note, however, that standards do not yet exist for virtual trunking technology.

Transparent LAN service opens up WAN connectivity opportunities

Native interfaces help network managers extend LAN connections across the wide area.

By Jon Fjeld

A doctor at a Chicago hospital is evaluating his patient and would like to consult with a specialist at a hospital across town. The patient is in critical condition and requires urgent attention the consultation must happen immediately, and the patient's medical records and diagnostics must be available in real time to both the treating physician and the specialist. The patient is not stable enough to transport across town, and it would take too long and be too expensive for the specialist to come to the hospital.

If the hospitals were connected by a high-speed network, the X-ray files and patient's medical history could be converted into an electronic file and transmitted immediately to the specialist. A videoconference could be used to facilitate a consultation with almost no wasted time. Finally, the treating physician and the specialist could have simultaneous access to the patient's medical history, diagnostics and the patient himself.

Rather than having to mess with the expense and details of establishing and maintaining a dedicated link between the two



sites, the hospitals could subscribe to a transparent LAN service to interconnect their networks at high speed.

Transparent connections

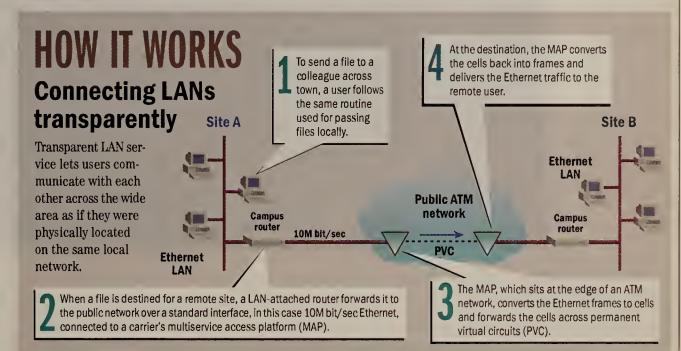
Simply put, transparent LAN service is an end-to-end service that connects remote LANs. The beauty of this solution is that the

service makes geographically distant locations appear to be part of the same LAN. Thus, companies do not have to invest in WAN expertise or equipment. The end user or users — in this case, the hospitals — need only supply

working. At the same time, the transparent LAN service solution is cost-effective. Because service providers can take advantage of economies of scale to provide transparent LAN service, a company can subscribe for less

LAN service networks use a tiered architecture. A multiservice access platform (MAP) connects to customers via a native LAN interface, and then consolidates the traffic and hands it to the backbone network. The backbone network, which is typically ATM-based, switches the traffic to its destination where it is once again delivered to the customer through a MAP.

Transparent LAN service is a painless, plug-and-play solution for interconnecting LANs over great distances. Companies can



a LAN connection from each site and the service provider can seamlessly interconnect the sites across a metropolitan-area network (MAN) or a WAN.

Customers connect to the service provider's network via a LAN interface, such as Ethernet, token ring or FDDI. Transparent LAN service often uses a high-speed ATM network backbone that can support native LAN rates — 10M and 100M bit/sec for Ethernet and 4M and 16M bit/sec for token ring. Interoperability between LANs and WANs operating at different speeds is not a problem. Because transparent LAN service is provided using a native LAN interface, customers do

not have to worry about purchasing WAN equipment or learning new technologies such as ATM.

Transparent LAN service provides a variety of benefits. For example, users can rapidly and securely transmit volumes of data over great distances without having to deal with the complexities involved in wide-area net-

money than it would take to build, manage and maintain its own MAN or WAN.

Transparent LAN service has been available for approximately three years. Most regional Bell operating companies and some competitive access providers, including MFS WorldCom and Teleport Communications Group, offer the service.

User view

From the user's perspective, transparent LAN service looks like an extension of the corporate LAN. Because connection to the service is made through a LAN interface, WAN customer premises equipment is not required. Traffic is bridged across the service in a secure and private manner.

The customer's network model really becomes that of a campus network, with a backbone LAN interconnecting buildings. This simplification of the network model eases network management considerably.

From the service provider's perspective, most transparent

focus on their core business and the net becomes as transparent as a utility. And if it could help physicians relay critical, dataintensive information immediately about patients in lifeor-death situations, just imagine what transparent LAN service could do for your business.

Fjeld is vice president of marketing for NetEdge Systems, Inc., a Research Triangle Park, N.C., company that provides ATM and other equipment to carriers so they can offer LAN-based services. The copany can be reached by phone at (800) 638-3343 or the World-Wide Web Jat http://www.netedge.com.

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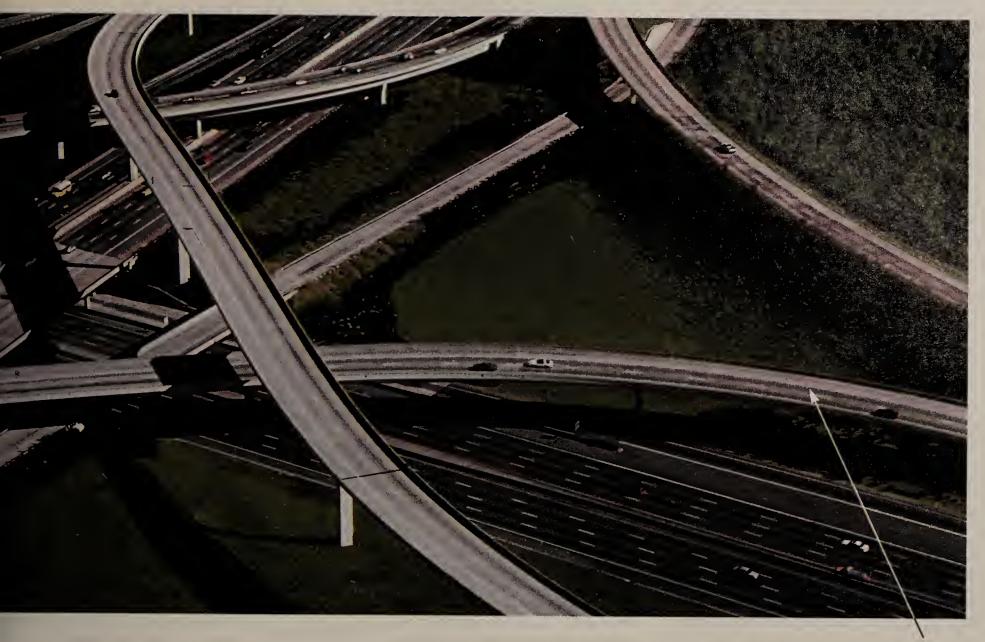
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EDITORIAL INSIGHTS

A gem of a service

o yourself a favor sometime soon: Call up your favorite local carrier and say you want ADSL just as soon as you can get it. ADSL, or Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line, makes more sense than any service I've seen since frame relay debuted

Over your existing copper phone lines, you can receive data at up to 8M bit/sec, with an upstream channel of 16K to 1M bit/sec. And over the same line, you still get a regular voice phone channel. (This is a gross simplification; see our feature on page 118 for the full story.)

If it sounds like this is the perfect vehicle for curing your Internet access woes, it is - not to mention a potential option for high-speed access to frame relay and ATM services. And if it sounds like it's similar to Basic Rate ISDN — essentially three channels over one line — it's that, too.

But that's where the similarities end.

First, ADSL is lots faster than ISDN, even Primary Rate, never mind BRI. And to support ISDN, carriers have to upgrade expensive central office switches, which they are usually loathe to do without pent-up demand.

Finally, ISDN is just too complicated. You can't expect the salespeople and administrative personnel populating small remote offices, where you likely need ISDN most, to configure most of the equipment it requires.

But I'm predicting ADSL will be different. The demand argument, for one, goes out the window. The equipment used to support ADSL can be installed piecemeal - a couple modems here, a couple there, as demand warrants.

Initial costs are in the \$2,000 range per line, and before too long, it should be much less. If you make enough noise, carriers have no real excuse not to outfit you with the service. And the prices carriers are talking about — averaging about \$50 to \$100 per line each month — are an unqualified bargain for that much bandwidth. (Especially if it includes your regular phone service, although that's not yet clear.)

The complexity question has yet to play out. Right now, there are two ADSL standards in play, but there appears to be agreement that has to be fixed, in order to avoid interoperability prob-

To their credit, every RBOC has ADSL trials in the works. If I were in your shoes, I'd try to get in on the fun.

Paul Desmond, features editor

pdesmond@nww.com

Teletoons

By Phil Frank and Joe Troise baba@sfgate.com



REALITY CHECK

Intranet management: It won't work until we take a different view

f you want to generate an admiring crowd these days, just shout, "Intranet management." Reporters will flock in such numbers as to put you at serious risk of being crushed.

But everything that's got cachet is not necessarily ready for prime time. In fact, wildly popular technologies are often

subjected to less cynical scrutiny than they deserve, and intranet management is such a concept.

The central problem with intranet management is network management in general is highly deviceoriented. That's probably not surprising given the fact that networks are composed of devices. However, it does pose a special challenge when the devices used to create a network aren't dedicated to that mission.

We all know that intranets are made up of routers, servers, LANs, links and so forth. But instead of

buying new iron, most companies are overlaying their intranets on the existing infrastructure. So what devices do intranet managers manage? Either the devices that support, in any part, the present a completely intranet (almost all) or the devices they bought (none).

The manage-nothing scenario has a certain surface appeal. You're the intranet manager, but you have nothing in particular to manage. Maybe you golf a lot, catch a few rays. A happy picture, but probably not a realistic one.

A more likely outcome is the following conversation with the CEO:

'Say, how's the old intranet running today?" the CEO asks.

"Gosh, I haven't got a clue. Why don't you sign on and give it a shot?" responds the intranet manager, thereby ensuring a career lifetime mea-

Do you feel like giving this approach a try?

The manage-a-piece-of-everything scenario also presents problems. Chances are good that each of the managers will try to use it for his or her own purposes — which may not coincide with those of the other manager.

The fact is that intranets present a completely new situation for the enterprise manager — a kind of network without portfolio. Intranets are service overlays, and a service overlay network is really more like a carrier service offering than a traditional user network.

Intranet users don't think of themselves as consuming routers. They see themselves as consuming information, which is a network service. What they'd really like to have is a service view - a description of the connections and quality of service they can expect — just as users of a carrier frame relay network would like a management view that shows their particular set of service connections and nothing else.

Most intranet builders also favor a service view. If intranets do not consist of specific, dedicated network devices, they reason, why stick intranet managers with management systems designed for



Thomas Nolle

The fact is, intranets

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They are service

overlays, which are

more like carrier

service offerings

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user networks.

people who manage devices?

We can see from some of the trends in carrier management how service networks would work. The description of the connections and quality of service associated with the service view would be converted into a set of virtual network objects that would be linked to the real devices. Service managers and

users could see and possibly control these virtual network objects. Any changes they are permitted to make would be reflected downward to the real network based on rules that control just the part of real network resources this particular service is allowed to consume.

New interest in World-Wide Web-based management tools may appear to be a path toward logical intranet management. However, management architecture isn't determined by the gadget the user looks through in to the network, but by the way

management information is collected and stored.

Concepts such as the proposed HyperMedia Management Protocol may provide a standard for a management-center-to-management-user connection, but we're still likely to be managing devices down in the core of that management center. Vendors such as Hewlett-Packard Co., IBM, Novell, Inc. and Sun Microsystems, Inc. have Web-based viewer support, but none have flexible service-view support. Intranet management apparently means managing from the intranet, not managing the intranet itself.

With all the interest in Web-based management, we're missing the boat here. Instead of trying to figure out how to deliver intranet management through a multikilobuck software product on a Unix workstation of simi-

lar price, why not just do the job using the same Web tools that make up the intranets in the first place?

Recently, vendors have been promoting Java as the new wave of management applications. Why not write an application to collect data from SNMP Management Information Bases and use Java or other Web software to project a service view? Even if the product didn't deal with the admittedly complex issue of control of real devices shared by several overlay network users, it would at least allow an intranet manager to report to the CEO on the health of the intranet. As long as we can't do that without analyzing the whole company network device by device, intranet management will be a

Expecting an intranet manager to rely on the traditional management tools network builders use, when there is rarely any real network building going on, ensures the failure of both the intranet manager and the intranet.

Nolle is president of CIMI Corp., a technology assessment firm located in Voorhees, N.J. He can be reached at (609) 753-0004 or at tnolle@ix.netcom.com.



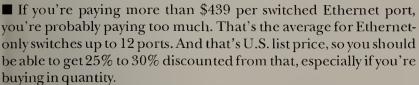


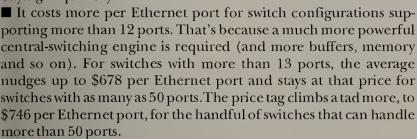
MIER'S NETCETERA

Some guidelines for switching to switches

es, switching is new — and hot. But before you go and plop down a small fortune to replace your hubs, multistation access units and perhaps even your older bridges and routers, how do you know you're getting a

Well, we just finished the first definitive analysis of this explosive new marketplace — assessing more than 120 discrete switching models from more than 50 vendors. Here's what we found:





■ If you're a token-ring user, your choices are more limited and your prices are higher. So what else is new, right? Even for the lowest end token-ring switches with as many as 12 ports, the average price per port is \$814. That price more than doubles, to \$1,889 per token-ring port, for the three switches we located that can switch up to 24 token-ring ports.

■ Believe it or not, you can get a high-end switch packed with 100Base-T ports that costs less per port than a high-end token-ring switch. For 100Base-T switches with nine or more ports, the average per-port price is \$1,834. So you can be switching 100M bit/sec ports for less than 16M bit/sec ports. What's wrong with this picture?



Edwin Mier

■ It costs a little less to add a 155M bit/sec ATM uplink to an Ethernet switch than it does to add a 100M bit/sec 100Base-T uplink. The average modular add-on price is \$1,766 per ATM uplink, but it increases to \$2,021 per 100Base-Tuplink.

■ You can get a switch that accommodates any mix of LAN types. There's even a couple that support 100VG-AnyLAN (groan). But by far the biggest selection is offered for switches that do a mix of Ethernet and 100Base-T (including those with

autosensing 10M/100M bit/sec ports). The next biggest class is Ethernet-only switches, followed by a group that can do Ethernet, 100Base-T and FDDI/Copper Distributed Data Interface.

■ You should insist on at least a one-year hardware replacement warranty. That's what 57% of vendors now offer. Eight percent only offer 90-day warranties, while slightly more than 25% offer full

■ Cut-through vs. store-and-forward is no longer an issue. Based on data the vendors supplied to us, the average latency for a minimumsize packet through a cut-through switch is 45.9 microsec, while the average latency through store-and-forward switch models is 51.5 microsec. Talk about splitting hairs.

We've noted some unusual problems with cut-through switching in our lab-testing of switches — problems that don't appear with store-and-forward switches. So everything else being equal and, from a performance point of view, it pretty much is — stick with store-and-forward switches.

Mier is a contributing editor to Network World and president of Mier Communications, Inc., a Princeton Junction, N.J.-based networking consultancy, product test center and technical publisher. The data presented here was excerpted from The Switch Book, a 300-page special report. Mier can be reached at (609) 275-7311 or via the Internet at

MESSAGE

Musings on Microsoft

Your editorial "Microsoft unfairly slapped" (Aug. 12, page 32) was a bit contrived. Although Microsoft Corp. has the right to license its software however it pleases, what pleases Microsoft in this case seems to be somewhat disingenuous.

The Windows NT Workstation 4.0 beta 10-connection flap was well covered in the trade press, and Microsoft backed down on an issue it knew it would not win. Microsoft made the mistake of not paying any attention to the World-Wide Web when NT 3.5X was released, then tried to make up for this by putting some restrictive language in the 4.0 NT Workstation license. The argument is not over file and print services via the Microsoft Network, but TCP/IP connections, which Microsoft seems to have acknowledged as valid rather late in the

It looks like Microsoft may be playing the Apple Computer, Inc. game: Define a small market early on, then, as people find some use for the company's products, show them the disrespect that they deserve. In the end, it won't be Netscape Communications Corp. or the Department of Justice that will punish Microsoft — it will be us.

Dennis Perkins Senior integration consultant GenRad, Inc. Irvine, Calif.

Your editorial on Microsoft hit the nail on the head: Netscape doesn't have a network operating system, and Internet Information Server coming "free" with NT 4.0 makes it that much harder to sell Netscape products. What the Netscape folks have to ask themselves is this: If they did market a NOS, would they bundle a Web server with it? As you noted, Novell seems to think it is a valid idea. Netscape should concentrate on building a better product, especially on non-NT platforms, where Netscape still rules the roost.

Don Jones System operator The Electronics Boutique West Chester, Pa.

One-sided view

Your article "NSI announces changes to domain name dispute policy" (Aug. 19,

page 12) gives only Network Solutions, Inc.'s views and fails to provide the views of any domain name owners, who are the primary victims of the policy. I wish you had interviewed even one of the domain name owners that had to sue NSI to keep from losing their domain names under the poorly designed policy. The NSI policy places all of its domain name owners at perpetual risk of nearly instant loss of their domain names, even if they aren't infringing on any trademarks. NSI should return to the policy used by nearly all other domain name registries, namely the policy set forth in RFC 1591.

Carl Oppedahl Partner Oppedahl & Larson Yorktown Heights, N.Y.

Acro-batty

Please stop with all the acronyms. In your story "Cisco backs up ATM LANE" (Aug 19, page 7) — a two-column article taking up about one-quarter of a page — I counted no less than 12 acronyms.

At the rate this industry is going, in two years a whole article will consist of a couple of paragraphs of acronyms sprinkled with a few participles and verbs. No wonder people think we're speaking Greek.

Daniel Duffy Network systems engineer Fresno County Office of Education Fresno, Calif.

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John Oix

NEWS **News Editor**

Associate News Editor

Enterprise Editor

Phone: (407) 381-7801: Fax: (407) 381-7903

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Phone: (312) 283-0213; Fax: (312) 283-0214 Peggy Watt - Senior Editor Phone: (415) 903-9519; Fax: (415) 968-3459

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FEATURES

Features Editor

Phone: (508) 820-7419; Fax: (508) 820-1103 Jim 8rown - Managing Editor, Features Phone: (508) 820-7408; Fax: (508) 820-1103 Susan Collins - Associate Features Editor Phone: (508) 820-7413; Fax: (508) 820-1103 Kathy Scott - Assistant Features Editor Phone: (508) 820-7489; Fax: (508) 820-1103

Reviews

Lee Schlesinger - Test Center Oirector Phone: (508) 820-7416 William Rinko-Gay - Director, Network World/PC World ServerTest Center Phone: (713) 376-8771; Fax: (713) 251-7857;

E-mail: bill_rinko-gay@pcworld.com Test Alliance Partners

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Is ADSL the optimum solution for high-speed Internet access?

symmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) technology is the optimum solution for high-speed Internet access because of its strengths in several key areas.

First and foremost, ADSL provides near-universal access to prospective Internet users. ADSL-based services use existing copper subscriber lines, which provide telephone service to the majority of the world's population. The planet is laced with approximately 640 million such lines — virtually all of which can support ADSL transmission — and their prevalence is unmatched by any other type of access network.

Another factor that makes ADSL the best solution for Internet access is that existing home telephone wiring is well suited for ADSL-based service. A large percentage of personal computers already use telephone lines for modem access. This same telephone line is all that is required to connect an ADSL modem to the network. With ADSL, there is virtually no need for in-home rewiring.

Dave Bush

A third ADSL strength is its transmission capacity. The inherent capability of ADSL discrete multitone (DMT) line-code technology to automatically, optimally and independently adapt its transmission speed to each of the 640 million copper lines enables ADSL service providers to offer data rates between 1.5M and 8M bit/sec downstream from the network and between 176K and 1M bit/sec upstream.

For the vast majority of users, actual performance will fall within this range, depending on the length and quality of individual telephone lines. To Internet users, this means an increase in speed of about 50 to 300 times the typical 28.8K bit/sec modem connection.

Data privacy is another key advantage of ADSL technology. Security has become quite a concern for Internet users

because they want to be sure their E-mail and Internet downloads cannot be viewed by others. Because ADSL transmissions use existing phone lines, there is a unique, point-to-point connection between each customer and the network. As a result, customers can't see one another's data, either accidentally or intentionally. Deliberate ADSL wiretaps, while not impossible, would be extremely difficult due to the complex nature of the ADSL signals on the telephone line.

In addition, because each connection is point to point, the quality of service for ADSL-based access networks is constant for each user. Therefore, ADSL service will never degrade because of the number of active users or the amount of traffic on the access network. Of course, data traffic elsewhere on the network could cause a degradation of service, but it wouldn't be in the ADSL portion of the network.

ATM is an important emerging technology for multiplexing all types of data traffic over a common communications channel. ADSL-based networks are well suited for

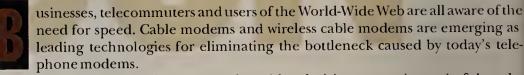
carrying ATM traffic, thus future-proofing ADSL

International standards for ADSL equipment have been ratified by both the ANSI and the European Telecommunications Standards Institute. These standards, which call for DMT line-code tech-

For more on ADSL, see the feature story on page 119.

nology, will help ensure interoperability between DMT-based ADSL equipment from various vendors. This means that the ADSL modem you purchase in Birmingham, Ala., will still allow you access to the Internet when you travel to Los Angeles on business. This is not the case with technologies lacking interoperability-enabling standards. ADSL is a powerful technology that permits the full potential of everyday telephone lines to be realized for vastly improved Internet access. Imagine surfing a World-Wide Web where high-quality video clips play at the click of a mouse, huge files download in seconds rather than tens of minutes, and browsers no longer need to display download progress. Using ADSL technology for Internet access will make these situations the norm, rather than simply an end user's dream.

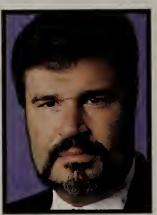
Bush is a systems and applications engineering manager with Motorola Semiconductor's MOS Digital-Analog IC Division in Austin, Texas, producer of ADSL transceivers. He can be reached via the Internet at rljw70@email.sps.mot.com.



Cable modems transmit data over the cable television system instead of the telephone system; wireless cable modems use microwave broadcasts to connect users' computers to the Internet. Both types of transmission can be controlled by the same equipment at the cable TV operator's central office.

Compared with Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) solutions, cable modems offer substantial advantages in terms of technology and business strategies.

First, cable modems are faster than ADSL solutions: ADSL rates range from 1.5M to 8M bit/sec, while cable modems deliver data at 10M to 30M bit/sec. By delivering Internet photos, video and other graphic information at full Ethernet speed, cable modems can eliminate the world-wide wait users now endure.



Ed Moura

Second, cable modems are more cost-effective than ADSL solutions. Today, according to our estimations, ADSL data terminal equipment costs between \$2,000 and \$5,000 per user, plus the cost of shared equipment at the central office. In an office, each user must have an ADSL connection, and you need one device at each end of the connection.

Compare that to a cable modem that can serve an entire office LAN for about \$1,000. Central-site equipment for cable modems adds another \$100 to the cost per site in commercial installations. This cost differential is expected to remain even when technological advances such as new chipsets and quantity manufacturing reduce the costs for both ADSL and cable solutions.

Third, unlike ADSL solutions, cable modems are not limited by location. ADSL faces a technical and business problem today because it works only within 3.5 miles of the switching office. If carriers have to install digital repeaters in the local loop to provide users with ADSL service, costs will rise substantially. Furthermore, if a carrier has already installed loading coils in the local loop to enable voice to transmit successfully over longer distances, the plant is unable to carry ADSL transmissions without very expensive modifications.

Cable modems work on installed cable TV networks, which often serve remote and dispersed customers. In locations such as commercial districts and office parks, where many customers are not served by cable, wireless cable delivery is a cost-effective option for high-speed Internet access.

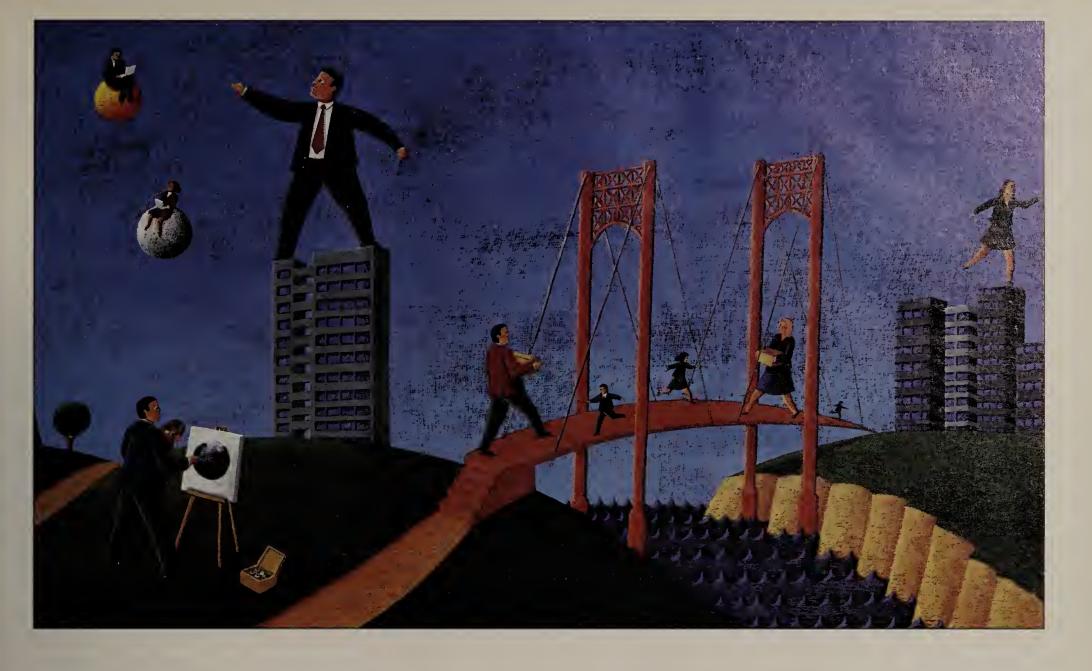
Fourth, there are business drivers behind cable modems. They offer new sources of revenue to cable TV operators serving households and open up the business market to development. Wireless operators expect to find valuable commercial opportunities for the wireless spectrum they control. ISPs looking to extend their services will be able to focus on providing the profitable business and professional market with value-added Internet offerings. By contrast, ADSL technology has the potential to make obsolete ISDN and T-1/T-3 transmission equipment already installed in the field. If the telephone companies charge lower rates for ADSL services, they will cannibalize their installed base of existing ISDN and T-1 leased-line businesses. This threat could delay widespread ADSL implementation.

Finally, cable systems can be more easily upgraded than ADSL systems. Cable TV operators, which currently use the phone system to provide upstream data links, are building hybrid fiber-coaxial networks that will support two-way cable transmission. Wireless cable operators also expect to support two-way transmission soon.

With ADSL, telephone carriers do not have a clear upgrade path. Fiber-to-the-curb upgrades are not directly compatible with an ADSL strategy.

Cable and wireless cable operators are in the best position to meet users' needs for high-speed Internet access with flexible configurations supporting offices and telecommuters. Cable and wireless cable can deliver Internet access now at competitive prices and, just as important, support a clear migration path to new technologies.

Moura is vice president of network systems for Hybrid Networks, Inc., a cable modem vendor in Cupertino, Calif. He can be reached via the Internet at ejm@hybrid.com.



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- -A migration strategy that paints a clear, precise picture of your future network transition.
- -Solutions that make life easier, and

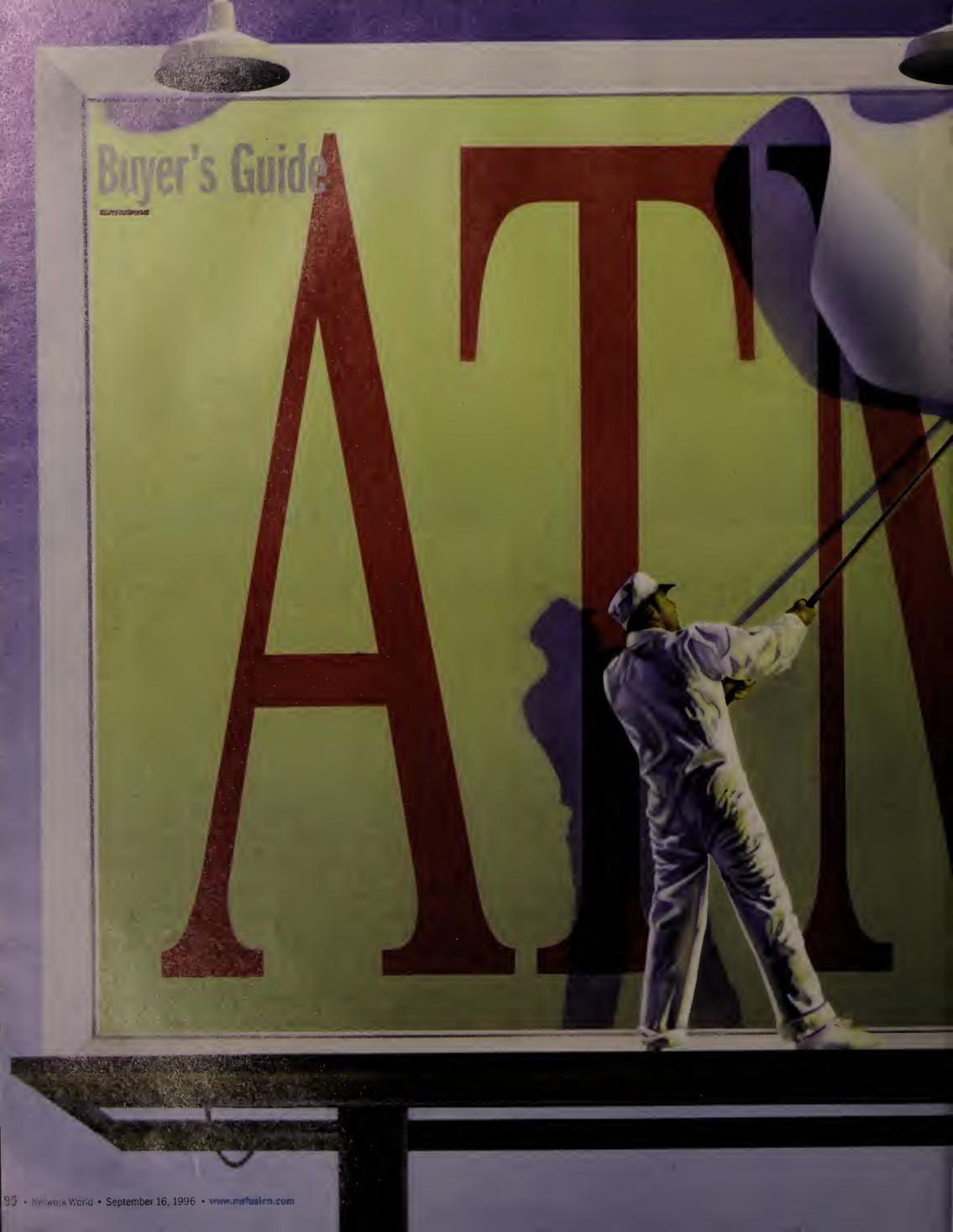
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Its arrived

With the palette now full of products, you can start painting your ATM masterpiece.

By Edwin Mier

an you picture everything on your network running over ATM? If you're experienced mainly in voice communications or packet-based data networking, you may have trouble conjure up that vision. But you are becoming a minority.

With ATM prices

plummeting and the ATM technology becoming better understood, it's clear that the technology has progressed from promise to practicality. Mier Communications, Inc. estimates the total number of installed ATM connections more than doubled in the first half of this year to more than 250,000. And the way things are going, it could double again by year-end.

But, wait a minute. Does this mean all the ATM standards issues have been worked out? Absolutely not. Is ATM now a completely mature and risk-free technology? No, but it's getting there. Can ATM fully integrate all of your organization's traffic within a single, unified network today? Not quite; not yet.

If you ask instead whether ATM is selling, whether it offers unique advantages and whether you can readily get all the pieces you need to deploy ATM today, the answer is a resounding yes.

This Buyer's Guide is a testament to the proliferation and availability of ATM equipment. The chart on page 92, for example, profiles 38 ATM switches that come in all shapes and sizes from 28 ven-

dors. ATM adapters from 16 vendors that support all popular workstation and server platforms are listed in the chart on page 100. Then there's a listing of products from more than a dozen vendors that offer you ways to interconnect existing LANs over an ATM backbone in the chart on page 96.

A sign that ATM is maturing – let's say passing from childhood to adolescence

- is that the marketplace is segmenting itself along lines that reflect different user environments. The two most notable ones are:

■ Carriers and service providers, who are using ATM now largely for high-speed internal backbones. Several key ATM features appeal to this user class including ATM's inherent cellmultiplexing; the high speed, redundancy and reliability of ATM's underlying synchronous, fiber-based digital transport; and the fast and flexible provisioning and reconfiguration of channels that ATM permanent virtual circuits (PVC) provide.

■ End users, who are implementing ATM in high-speed workgroup data networks and in campus backbones. Use of switched virtual circuits (SVC) in these networks is mushrooming. SVCs, combined with ATM's varied classes of ser-

vices, provide switched-bandwidth allocation on demand for the widely differing traffic types of end users.

Central switching

The common denominator to any ATM network, whether it be a nation-wide carrier backbone or a workgroup, is the switch. The ATM switches listed in the Buyer's Guide chart on page 92 have

very different configurations, capacities, interfaces – and price tags.

Workgroup ATM switches are designed to interconnect workstations in a high-speed cluster. These usually support an uplink for connecting the cluster to an ATM backbone. Some workgroup switches can also, or alternately, be used to link an ATM workgroup with one or more legacy LANs.

There are a few factors to bear in mind when evaluating workgroup ATM switches. First, the switch configuration needs to satisfy your requirements. Are

enough ports supported for your current environment? Is there flexibility to grow? Are you planning for all 155M bit/sec connections? (They are by far the most prevalent choice today, although low-cost 25M bit/sec ATM adapters are also available.) Will

ON THE PRICE SLIDE

You can get 155M
blt/sec workstation ATM
adapters for less than
\$1,000 today. On the
switch side, a 155M
bit/sec ATM port can cost
from \$2,500 to \$25,000,
depending on the type and
class of switch. While
these prices will seem
high, and may in fact still
keep ATM affordability out
of your reach, they reflect
a 40% to 50% drop from
a year ago.

ATM switches Configuration Max. number of ports per interface type (1) Traffic types and Management Price Product Type signaling 622M bit/sec OC-12 N. Variable bit rate (VBR) Available bit rate (ABR) UNI 3.0 or 3.1 Private ATM backbone Hot-swappable ATM modules Redundancy features Constant bit rate (CBR Unspecified bit rate (UBR) Switched virtual circuit ATM and LAN workgroup Carrier ATM backbone Modular multislot chassis Modular multirack system 100M bit/sec TAX ATM workgroup only 25M bit/se 155M bit/sec OC-From \$20,000 for typical SNMP, telnet, ADC Kentrox AAC-3 ATM Access 28 **TFTP** configurations (503) 643-1681 Concentrator From \$33,476; \$82,000 for basic 15 SNMP (2) V 60 30 ADC Telecommunications Cellworx AMS 5001 system with full management **Network Services** (800) 366-3891 \$30,300 for base chassis; \$2,500 SNMP, TFTP 5 ATMizer 125 Agile Networks, Inc. per OC-3 interface (508) 263-3600 Vendor will provide pricing for **CMIP** (2) 6,944 1,736 1,736 1,736 1000 AX Alcatel Telecom specific configurations only (972) 996-5000 Not specified Vendor will provide pricing for DS-2010 Ascom Timeplex, Inc. specific configurations only (201) 391-1111 From \$17,225-\$32,250 for base 24 BOOTP, SNMP, 24 24 24 9A000, SFCS 200BX Cabletron Systems, Inc. or 96 or 96 or 96 TFTP or 96 and SFCS 1000 (603) 337-9400 From \$25,000 for base system 112 56 SNMP, telnet, 500 ATM Switch 14 Cascade Communications Corp. FTP (508) 692-2600 SNMP, telnet. 16 32 8 From \$19,000 for base chassis; Cisco Systems, Inc. Lightstream 1010 from \$2,100 for OC-3 interface TFTP (800) 859-2726 From \$35,000 for base system StrataCom IGX 240 23 SNMP VV SNMP From \$27,500 for base system 144 96 24 7,680 StrataCom BPX V (3)From \$9,600 or \$11,900 for base 68 BOOTP, SNMP 1 CELLerity 6120-212 Connectware, Inc. (4), telnet, TFTP, system; from \$8,500 for OC-3 and 6135-312 (214) 907-1093 BOOTP, SNMP From \$8,800 for base system CELLerity 6140-416 68 (4), telnet, TFTP From \$19,995 for base system 32 32 VV CrossComm Corp. XLX ATM Switch (508) 481-4060 \$5,250 for 5 slots; \$15,240 for BOOTP, SNMP GIGAswitch/ 52 52 52 13 Digital Equipment Corp. (4), telnet, TFTP 14 slots; from \$5,700 for ATM (800) 457-8211 ATM System interface From \$5,700 for base system SNMP (4) First Virtual Corp. V-Switch 20 2 (408) 567-7200 \$9,995 for base system 24 24 16 SNMP, telnet 16 ForeRunner ASX-Fore Systems, Inc. (888) 404-0444 ForeRunner ASX-24 SNMP From \$15,950 for base system 24 16 24 16 1 200BX and ASX-1000 SNMP, telnet, From \$6,000 for base system 30 30 General DataComm, Inc. GDC Apex ATM 30 TFTP (203) 574-1118 switches From \$33,476; \$82,000 for basic SNMP (2) Hitachi Telecom USA, Inc. 60 30 15 AMS 5001 system with full management (770) 446-8820 SNMP From \$26,300 for base system 16 16 Hughes Network Systems, Inc. BX5000 (301) 601-4299 From \$21,585 for base system SNMP, telnet, 168 28 28 56 8260 Switching Hub TETP (800) 426-2255 From \$6,995 for base system SNMP, telnet, 8285 Nways Switch 48 6 12 TFTP Vendor will provide pricing for specific configurations only CMIP, SNMP 128 GlobeView-2000 384 Lucent Technologies, Inc. 2),telnet (888) 458-2368 **Broadband System** From \$13,495 for base system 16 SNMP, telnet, Collage 740 Madge Networks, Inc. (800) 876-2343 Backbone Switch TFTP From \$6,995 for base system 12 SNMP (4) Collage 250 and 280 62 ~ SNMP, telnet Vendor will provide pricing for 32 62 16 62 NEC America, Inc. Atomnet/M7 specific configurations only (214) 518-5000 180 Less than \$30,000 for base Newbridge Networks, Inc. 36170 MainStreet 180 NMP (4), telnet system (800) 343-3600 SNMP, telnet \$23,700 12 Vivid ATM Workgroup Switch

18

64

32

or 32

16

16

56

6

64

32

8

or 32

16

60

2

16

8

(415) 855-0855 Product names highlighted in color were selected for the Short List. Footnotes

Magellan Passport

Magellan Concorde

Magellan Vector

Stinger 1

ONcore

NCX 1E6

Switch

and Stinger 5

GeoSwitch/25

GeoSwitch/155

WS2500 Workgroup

Thomson-CSF Enterprise Networks ThomFlex 5100

(2) Out of-band only.

Northern Telecom, Inc.

Scorpio Communications

Telematics International, Inc.

(800) 466-7835

(212) 221-5998

(800) 638-3266

(800) 833-4580

(408) 452-0555

(800) 777-4526

Whitetree, Inc.

UB Networks, Inc.

3Com Corp.

1 42

48

40

16

24

or 96

168

96

48

(4) In-band only.

CMIP: Common Management Information Protocol PNNI: Private Network-to-Network Interface TAXI: Transparent Asynchronous Transmitter/Receiver Interface Chart compiled by Mier Comm

\$50,000 for typical system wit voice, video, frame relay and

Vendor will provide pricing for

Vendor will provide pricing for

From \$26,990 for base system

From \$60,000 for base system

From \$16,950 for base system

From \$6,995 for base system with 12 interfaces

From \$8,999 for base system

From \$6,995 for base system

specific configurations only

specific configurations only From \$15,800 for base system

SNMP, telnet

BOOTP, SNMP,

SNMP (4), telnet

SNMP (4), TFTP

BOOTP, SNMP

SNMP, telnet

SNMP, telnet

SNMP (4)

(4),TFTP

VVV

SNMP (4)

SNMP

TFTP

TFTP: Trivial File Transfer Protocol UNI: User-Network Interface

⁽¹⁾ When fully configured for specified interface type only Mixing interface types lowers the maximum number.

⁽³⁾ Via external concentrators.



What if you could invest in technology without freezing yourself in time

At the rate technology advances, too often the instant you make a purchase, it's obsolete.

For WAN solutions, this can mean choosing between a frame relay platform for where you are, or an ATM platform for where you want to be. The Alcatel 1100 HSSTM multiservice switch from Alcatel Data Networks lets you avoid this trap by handling ATM or frame relay—or both—in one flexible platform. With plug-in boards that make it not just a timely answer to today's rapidly changing network needs, but an excellent investment for the future. To learn more, call 1-888-ADN-2500 or (703)724-2878, or visit http://www.adn.alcatel.com.



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Your network is growing. Your problems are, too. And Fast Ethernet is your best way out of the woods.

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Start with EtherPower 10/100TM network cards and EZ Switch[™] Plus to deliver 10 Mbps to each workstation, and create 100 Mbps trunks for your servers.

For power-hungry users, build Fast Ethernet workgroups with the EZ Hub™ 100, at a surprisingly low price per port.

When it's time to branch out, add the SMC TigerStackTM100. These Fast Ethernet stackable hubs deliver unmatched segmentability, and run on Cat 3, Cat 4, Cat 5, or

GUAA fiber. So you can upgrade to Fast Ethernet—without uprooting your infrastructure.

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our Fast Ethernet Integration Center at www.smc.com/fe. Or, call 1-800-SMC-4-YOU.

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Circle Reader Service #85

Legacy LAN-to-ATM switches

vendor		Max. nu LAN int		Con	figur	ation	1 %.	1	ATM i	inter	aces			LAN	l-over	-ATM			Management	Price		
		Ethernet	Token ring	FDDI/CDDI	100Base-T	Fixed configuration	Modular multislot chassis	Copper and tiber withing	Hot-swappable modules	Reduildaricy regulies	25M bit/sec ATM	1.3	100M bit/sec TAXI	155M bit/sec OC-3	Max, number of ATM interfaces	PVCs	SVCs per UNI 3.0	SVCs per UNI 3.1	LANE client	LANE server		
agile Networks, Inc. 508) 263-3600	ATMizer 121	12			2			/ (1					~		~	~	~	~	~	SNMP, TFTP	From \$16,300 for base system
Social State	1100 LSS Series	108	54	FDDI: 36 CDDI: 72	72		(2)	•			·		~	18	~	(3)	(3)	~	~	FTP, SNMP (4)	\$7,450 for 12 Ethernet ports; from \$9,095 for multislot system
Allied Telesyn International 206) 487-8880	AT-4016TR, AT-4016F and AT-TS95	8 or 16				-									1	-	V	~	~		SNMP, TFTP	\$12,320 to \$18,000 for base syste
Say Networks, Inc. 500) 776-6895	Centillion 100	88	24		10									~	24	_	-	~			BOOTP, SNMP,	From \$1,995 for base system; \$6,495 to \$8,995 per module
(000) 110-00.73	System 5000	176			20		-							~	48	~	-	-			BOOTP, SNMP, TFTP	From \$6,995 for base system; \$7,995 to \$10,995 per module
Cabletron Systems, Inc. (603) 337-9400	MMAC-Plus Enterprise	468	26	39	156		-		-						26		-	~	-		BOOTP, SNMP, TFTP	From \$23,000 for base system; \$9,000 to \$30,000 per module
	WorkGroup SmartSwitch	48		4	24		•					•	//		4	~	-	~	~		BOOTP, SNMP, TFTP	From \$35,185 for base system; \$6,000 to \$17,000 per module
Disco Systems, Inc. 800) 859-2726	Catalyst 5000	192		4	4		~		-	/				~	3	~	~	'	'	~	Network download, SNMP	From \$11,995 for base system; \$4,795 to \$19,995 per module
Connectware, Inc. 214) 907-1093	CELLerity Series ATM/LAN Bridge and Bridge/Router	4				~					~		-	-	1		-	-			Network download, SNMP (5);	\$5,495 for bridge; \$5,995 for bridge/router
CrossComm Corp. (508) 481-4060		24			2	~	~	•	~			•		~	1	-				V	Network download, SNMP	\$20,995 for fixed-configuration model; from \$14,995 for base modular system
	XLT/XLT-F ATM Edge Router	32	32				~	~	~	~		•		~	32	~	~	~		~	BOOTP, SNMP, TFTP	From \$4,495 for base system; \$1,200 to \$19,995 per module
Fore Systems, Inc. (888) 404-0444	ES-3810 Ethernet Switch	74			10		~	~		(6)				V	1		~		~		BOOTP, SNMP	From \$3,695 for base system; \$1,795 to \$5,995 per module
Madge Networks, Inc.	Collage 530	16				~								V	1						SNMP (5)	\$9,995
(408) 955-0700 Newbridge Networks, Inc.	VIVID Blue Ridge for Token Ring		10			~				~				~	2			~	~		Network download, SNMP	\$14,800
(800) 343-3600	VIVID Yellow Ridge for Ethernet	12				~								~	1			~			Network download, SNMP	\$10,441
	36150 MainStreet	60	45	FDDI: 15			~	~	~	~	~		/ /	1	16	~					FTP, proprietary CMIP and SNMP	From \$10,000 for base system
3Com Corp.	LinkSwitch 2700	12				V				~				V	1	V	~	~	~		Network download, SNMP	\$8,400
(800) 638-3266 UB Networks, Inc. (800) 777-4526	GeoRim/E	12				V	~	~						~	1	V	~	~	V		SNMP (5)	From \$6,995 for fixed-configurati model; from \$5,995 for base modular system
Whitetree, Inc.	WS3000 Workgroup Switch	144				V		~	~		4	4		~	15	~	~	~	V	~	FTP, SNMP (5), TFTP	\$7,995 per stackable device
(415) 855-0855 Xylan Corp. (818) 880-3500	OmniSwitch with OmniCell	128	48	FDDI: 32 CDDI: 64			~	~	~	V	((3)	/	~	16 (8)	V	V	~	~		FTP, SNMP	From \$9,095 for chassis with 5 slots

(1) When fully configured for specified interface type only. Mixing interface types lowers the maximum number.

(2) Limited functionality

(3) Ships in fourth quarter. (4) Out-of-band only.

(5) In-band only.

(6) Ships in third quarter.

(7) Up to 12 12-port units can be stacked for 144 ports.

(8) Will increase to 128 in fourth quarter.

CDDI: Copper Distributed Data Interface CMIP: Common Management Information Protocol

FTP: File Transfer Protocol LANE: LAN emulation

PVC: Permanent virtual circuit SVC: Switched virtual circuit

TAXI: Transparent Asynchronous Transmitter/Receiver Interface TFTP: Trivial File Transfer Protocol

UNI: User-Network Interface

you use fiber or try running ATM over Category 5 unshielded twisted pair?

You may also need to wade into thorny ATM technical issues and software capabilities if you want to connect LANs and ATM workstations to an ATM workgroup switch. Existing LAN technologies, which are shared-media and broadcast-based, don't dovetail very well with ATM, which is point-to-point and connection-based. So check to see if the workgroup switch you're examining has special mechanisms such as LAN Emulation (LANE) Configuration Server and LANE Client software, which help bridge the gap.

Within private networks, and especially for campus environments, you'll use ATM private-network backbone switches. These are similar to workgroup ATM switches except they're modified to handle significantly more virtual circuits.

In a workgroup of, say, 10 workstations, a workgroup switch might only need to manage a dozen or so concurrent ATM virtual circuits. A backbone switch, with trunks on each interface, might need to handle hundreds or perhaps thousands of virtual circuits.

The configuration you need in a private ATM backbone switch, including the number and type of ATM interfaces, will depend on the role it plays in your design and topology. For instance, if the switch will connect to a public carrier's ATM service, you'll likely need T-1 or T-3 ATM interfaces. Fiber-based 155M bit/sec ATM service access interfaces are still supported on a very limited basis by service providers.

Also find out if the backbone switch will permit attached endstations to set up their own SVCs or whether it can act only as an intermediate node for establishing SVCs. Then find out how fast SVC setups can be processed as well as the maximum concurrent number of SVCs that can be maintained. Determining if the switch supports the specific set of interface specifications you need, such as Versions 3.0 and 3.1 of the ATM Forum's User-Network Interface (UNI), is also important.

The next major category is the ATM access, or edge switch, which is designed to provide the control, cell switching, cell processing and interface between your

Completing the ATM connection

With so much focus on switches, network interface cards and adapters, and legacy LAN-to-ATM switches, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that you may often need some other piece of equipment to finish building an ATM network. Fret not. There are a host of specialty ATM-based components and subsystems available from a number of vendors.

Here's a sampling of what's offered in the following ATM product categories:

interfaces for linking non-ATM devices, networks ATM network concentrators and multiplexers: and systems to, and over, ATM:

- ► ATM Interface Processor and ATM Network Processor modules for Cisco Systems, Inc's 7000 and 4000 families of multiprotocol routers
- Computer Network Technology's Channelink ATM product for extending SCSI and IBM mainframe channels over an ATM network
- FastComm Communications Corp.'s LAN SARgent for bridging Ethernets over an ATM permanent virtual circuit
- ► Newbridge Networks, Inc.'s 36030 and 36050 LAN Service Units for bridging Ethernet or token ring over ATM
- Odetics Telecom's ATM interface and converter
- UB Networks, Inc.'s GeoLink/LA hub cards for bridging Ethernets over ATM

DSU/CSUs for connecting private ATM networks to public ATM network services:

- ► ADC Kentrox DataSmart T-3 ATM DSU
- Sahara Networks' SA-100 Broadband Service Unit

- ▶ ADC Kentrox's AAC-1 ATM Access Concentrator
- Dynatech Communications, Inc.'s DynaStar series of Access Switches
- Fujitsu Network Communications, Inc.'s SMX-6200
- Larscom, Inc.'s IMUX-A45 inverse multiplexer and Orion 4000 Broadband Access Multiplexer
- ► Litton-FiberCom's CAM 7640/50 ATM Multiplexer
- OnStream Networks, Inc.'s CS600 ATM Access
- ► Premisys Communications, Inc.'s IMACs ATM Concentrator
- Sahara Networks, Inc.'s SA series of concentrators and multiplexers

Other ATM-oriented, specialty products:

- ► GTE Network Systems Division's InfoGuard 100 cell encryptor for securing digital traffic over ATM links operating at up to T-3 speed
- Litton-FiberCom's CAMVision video codec

SOURCE: MIER COMMUNICATIONS, PRINCETON JUNCTION, NJ.





Let's do the math:

A Catalyst 5000 with 96 switched Ethernet ports at 10 Mbps equals 960 Mbps of downlink traffic. And with only two 100 Mbps Fast Ethernet uplinks, your bottleneck has been created.

÷ 200 Mbps uplinks to backbone 960 Mbps downlinks to desktop

uplinks can only handle

21% of total throughput

To make matters worse, Cisco is selling the Catalyst 5000 as a 50-port Fast Ethernet switch. At 100 Mbps per port, that's 5 Gbps. But the total capacity of the Catalyst's centralized switching engine is only 1.2 Gbps. You're oversubscribed! (We'll let you do the math for Gigabit Ethernet.)

5 Gbps - 1.2 Gbps

3.8 Gbps OVERSUBSCRIBED

Sorry Cisco,

but we thought the idea of switching was to remove the bottlenecks

The Catalyst 5000 may be an okay Ethernet switch. But running traffic from all 96 switched Ethernet ports (960 Mbps) out the two built-in Fast Ethernet uplinks (200 Mbps) creates a significant bottleneck in your network. Then what? Add one of Cisco's 12-port Fast Ethernet uplink modules for 1.2 gigs of raw switching power? Fine, except the total capacity of the Catalyst's centralized controller module is only 1.2 gigs. You're oversubscribed. And to make matters worse, that centralized controller in the Catalyst 5000 is a single point of failure!

Fortunately, there's a more reliable way to eliminate bottlenecks: the fully distributed, fault-tolerant MMAC-Plus from Cabletron Systems. With the MMAC-Plus, every module has its own switching engine and management processor. So the more modules you add, the more bandwidth and throughput you get. All with no single point of failure.

Now that's the idea of switching... eliminate the bottlenecks.

The Facts Speak for Themselves





PERFORMANCE	CABLETRON'S MMAC-PLUS	CATALYST 5000
Backplane	2.5 Gbps (scalable to > 300 Gbps)	1.2 Gbps (fixed)
Aggregate Bandwidth	10 Gbps (scalable to > 75 Gbps)	1.2 Gbps
Throughput	10.5M pps (scalable to > 100M pps)	1M pps

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Call (603) 337-0929 for your free "Cabletron Outperforms Cisco" Proof Kit or visit us at Networld+Interop in Atlanta (booths 1012 and 904).







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nadrii	Product	Platform	Interface speed	Operating systems		S	Price		
		Bus type and hardware	(bit/sec)/cabling requirements	Windows 95	Windows NT	NetWare 3.X	SunOS and Solaris	Other	
Carrecting.	ANA-5940 and ANA-5930	PCI bus-based PCs	155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP	V	V	V 1		MacOS	Fiber: \$595; UTP: \$4
08) 945-8600	ANA-5910 EL and DX ANA-5240 and ANA-5230	PCI bus-based PCs Sbus-based Sun SPARC workstations	25M/UTP		V		/	MacOS	\$199-\$349
	ANA 5210	Sbus-based Sun SPARC workstations	155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP 25M/ UTP				V		Fiber: \$995; UTP: \$8 \$349
abletron /stems, Inc.	NBA-200 series SBA-100 and SBA-200 series	NuBus-based systems Sbus-based Sun SPARC workstations	155M/fiber with SC or ST connectors or UTP 100M or 155M/fiber with ST	-			-	MacOS	\$1,940 \$1,075
03) 337-9400			or SC connectors; UTP for 155M model						
	GIA-100 and GIA-200 series	GIO bus-based SGI workstations	100M or 155M/fiber with ST or SC connectors; UTP for 155M model					Irix Indigo and Indy workstations	\$1,075
	HPA-200 series	EISA bus-based HP 9000/7xx workstations	100M or 155M/fiber with ST or SC connectors; UTP for 155M model					HP-UX 9.X	\$1,075
	ESA-200	EISA bus-based PCs or SGI Extreme	100M or 155M/fiber with ST	-	~	v (/	SGI Irix 5.3	\$1,075
	and ESA-200PC series MCA-200 series	workstations Micro Channel bus-based	or SC connectors; UTP for 155M model	-				AJX 3.2.X	\$1,400
	TCA-100	IBM RS/6000 workstations	or SC connectors; UTP for 155M model	L					
nnectware, Inc.			100M/fiber with ST connectors 155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP	-			V	Ultrix	\$1,075 From \$699
14) 907-1093	CELLerity ATM 1110 PCI NIC	PCI bus-based PCs with Pentium processor	25M or 155M/UTP for 25M; fiber or UTP for 155M	~	~	V .	/	SCO Unix	From \$495
	CELLerity ATM 1110 EISA NIC	EISA bus-based PCs	25M or 155M/UTP for 25M;	~	V	v (/		From \$595
gital	ATMworks 350	and HP-UX workstations PCI bus-based PCs	fiber or UTP for 155M 155M/fiber with SC connectors	-	V			Unix	\$1,995
quipment Ccrp.	ATMworks 950L	Sbus-based Sun SPARC workstations	155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP				v	Onix	Fiber: \$1,395; UTP: \$
00) 457-8211	ATMworks 350L ATMworks 750	PCI bus-based PCs Turbochannel bus-based	155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP 155M/fiber with SC connectors	~	~		/	Unix	Fiber: \$1,095; UTP: \$2,495
		workstations with DEC Alpha processor						Unix	
ficient Networks, Inc. 14) 991-3884	ENI-155p ENI-155 series	PCI bus-based PCs Sbus-based Sun SPARC workstations	155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP 155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP	~	~	V 1	1		Less than \$1,000 (1)
,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	ENI-100s	Sbus-based Sun SPARC workstations	100M/fiber with SC connectors			-	V		Less than \$1,000 (1) Less than \$1,000 (1)
	ENI-155e ENI-25p	EISA bus-based PCs and PowerPCs PCI bus-based PCs with DEC Alpha,	155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP 25M/UTP	_	~	V .	/	186-4	Less than \$1,000 (1)
		Pentium or PowerPC processor	25/0//01P	1				Windows and NetWare Client32 planned	\$249
re Systems, Inc.	ENI-100e HPA-200 series	EISA bus-based PCs and PowerPCs EISA bus-based HP workstations	100M/fiber with SC connectors 155M/fiber with ST or SC connectors or UTP		~	v .	/	LID HV	Less than \$1,000 (1)
38) 404-0444	SBA-200 series	Sbus-based Sun SPARC workstations	155M/fiber with ST or SC connectors or UTP				~	HP-UX	\$995-\$1,195 \$995-\$1,195
	GIA-200 series ESA-200E	GIO bus-based SGI workstations EISA bus-based PCs	155M/fiber with ST or SC connectors or UTP					Irix	\$995-\$1,195
	and ESA-200EPC series	and SGI workstations	155M/fiber with ST or SC connectors or UTP			1		SGI Irix	\$995-\$1,195
	NBA-200 series MCA-200 series	NuBus-based systems Micro Channel bus-based	155M/fiber with ST or SC connectors or UTP					MacOS	\$995-\$1,195
		IBM RS/6000 workstations	155M/fiber with ST or SC connectors or UTP					AIX	\$1,295-\$1,495
	PCA-200 series	PCI bus-based PCs and Power Macintoshes	155M/fiber with ST or SC connectors or UTP		~	V .	1	Apple Open	\$995-\$1,195
	VMA-200 series	VMEbus-based SGI workstations	155M/fiber with ST or SC connectors or UTP					Transport 1.1	\$1,995-\$2,195
terphase Corp. 14) 654-5000	5515	PCI bus-based PCs	155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP	~	~	V .	1	MacOS, OS/2, UnixWare, Solaris x86	\$650
	5525	PCI bus-based PCs	25M/UTP	V	~	V .	/	MacOS, OS/2,	\$222
	4615	Sbus-based workstations	155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP				V	UnixWare, Solaris x86	\$ 795
	4815	PCI bus-based PCs	155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP		~	1		HP-UX 9.X	\$895
	5215	with Pentium processor VMEbus-based workstations	155M/fiber with SC or ST connectors			+	-	and 10.X, Irix Irix , SunOS, HP-RT	\$2,795
adaa Naturaka Ina	4915	GIO bus-based SGI workstations	155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP					Irix	\$995
adge Networks, Inc. 00) 876-2343	Collage 25 Adapter Collage 155 Adapter	PCI bus-based PCs PCI bus-based PCs	25M/UTP 155M/fiber with ST connectors or UTP		V V			OS/2 Warp OS/2 Warp	\$295 Fiber: \$1,295; UTP: \$
ewbridge etworks, Inc.	VIVID ATM NIC	EISA bus-based PCs, HP 9000	155M/fiber with SC connectors		_	10	-		\$1,267
00) 343-3600		workstations, and SGI Challenge and Indigo2 workstations							
	VIVID Sbus ATM NIC	Sbus-based Sun SPARC and Ultra workstations	155M/fiber with SC connectors				~		\$1,267
	VIVID GIO ATM NIC	GIO bus-based SGI Indy	155M/fiber with SC connectors					Irix 5.X	\$1,267
	VIVID PCI ATM NIC	and Challenge servers PCI bus-based PCs, PowerPCs,	155M/fiber with SC connectors						
		and DEC AlphaServers			-	•		DEC Unix	\$1,267
icom USA, Inc. 14) 423-7560	RapidFire OC-615x	PCI bus-based PCs with Pentium processor	155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP	V	~	/ •	1	OS/2 Warp	Fiber: \$795; UTP: \$6
DL ommunications, Inc.	RISCom/TCi card	PCI bus-based PCs with Pentium processor	155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP (T-1 and T-3 models available)		~			BSDi, LINUX	From \$1,500
08) 238-4490 andard	ATM Power155 Sbus series	Sbus-based workstations	155M/fiber with ST connectors or UTP			1	-		
icrosystems Carp. 16) 273-3100	1								Fiber: \$1,295-\$1,990 UTP: \$1,149-\$1,880
16) 273-3100	ATM Power155 PCI series	PCI bus-based PCs	155M/fiber with ST connectors or UTP	~	~	10			Fiber: \$1,149-\$1,880 UTP: \$995-\$1,750
	ATM Power155 EISA series	EISA bus-based PCs	155M/fiber with ST connectors or UTP	V	~	1 0			Fiber: \$1,295-\$1,990
n Microsystems, Inc.	SunATM	Sbus-based Sun workstations,	155M or 622M/fiber or		-			Solaris 2.4 and later	UTP: \$1,149-\$1,880 \$995-\$4,995
15) 960-1300 rsKonnect, Inc.	SK-7321 and SK-7341	including Media and Netra EISA bus-based PCs	UTP for 155M; fiber for 622M						
08) 437-3800	SK-7521 and Sk-7541	PCI bus-based PCs	155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP 155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP		V 1				Fiber: \$1,495; UTP: \$ Fiber: \$1,495; UTP: \$
Com Corp.	SK-7621 and SK-7641 ATMLInk Sbus-155 Fiber	Sbus-based Sun SPARCstations Sbus-based workstations	155M/fiber with SC connectors or UTP				~		Fiber: \$1,295; UTP: \$
0) 638-3266	ATMLink PCI-155 Fiber	PCI bus-based PCs Pentium processor	155M/fiber with SC connectors 155M/fiber with SC connectors		-	v			\$1,495 \$1,495
itNet, Inc. 08) 986-9100	ZN-1211 and ZN-1215 ZN-1221 and ZN-1225	Sbus-based Sun workstations PCI bus-based PCs	155M/fiber with ST connectors or UTP				~		Fiber: \$995; UTP: \$89
	ghted in color were selected for	, C, bus-based PCS	155M/fiber with ST connectors or UTP	1	V 1	10			Fiber: \$1,095; UTP: \$

"Do you have any idea how fast your SNA was traveling?"



SNA Network Users Receive 30% Savings, Faster Data Transfer and 100% Guaranteed Session Uptime With Intermedia/EMI Frame Relay

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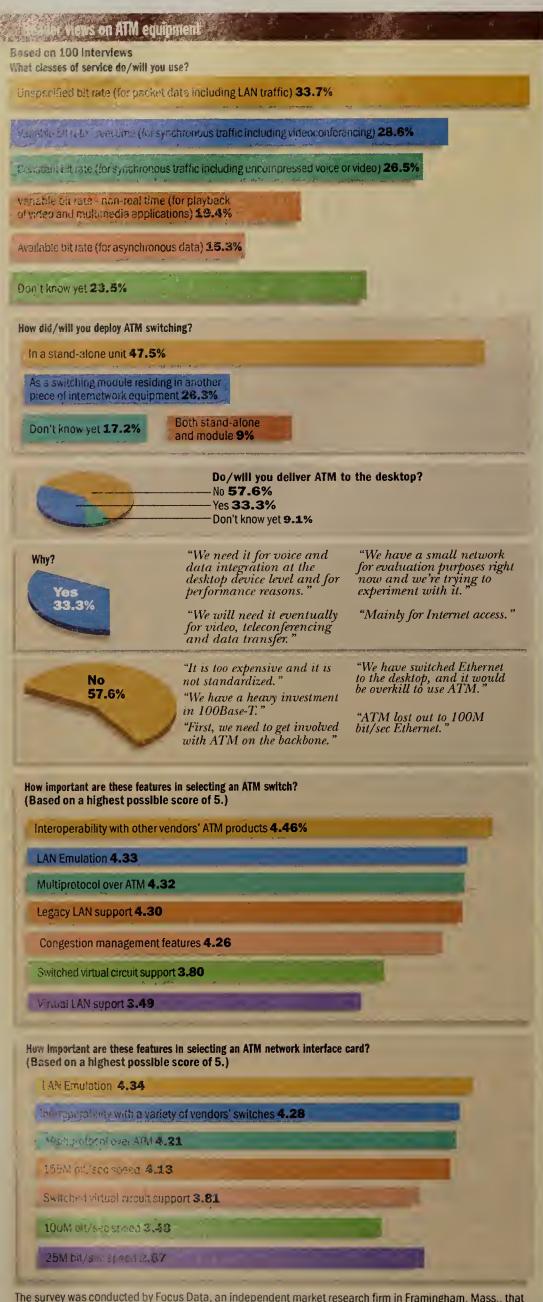
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The survey was conducted by Focus Data, an independent market research firm in Framingham, Mass., that gathers primary data concerning the enterprise network environments and needs of end-users. To purchase full survey results, call Mona Dabbon at (508) 626-2556, or send E-mail to mdabbon@focusdata.ultranet.com.

site and a carrier's ATM service. Edge switches usually support T-1 and T-3 ATM interfaces.

Some ATM edge switches speak ATM only in the direction of the carrier network. Users in this case deliver traffic to the switch via conventional, non-ATM interfaces, such as a V.35 port or LAN interface, and the switch converts that traffic to ATM for transmission to the carrier network. Others, however, can accept user ATM inputs as well as converse with the carrier's network via ATM.

Due to the still-fluid nature of many ATM interface specifications, compatibility between an edge switch and a particular carrier's ATM network is hardly guaranteed. PVC interoperability is now fairly routine.

But SVC interoperability depends on a much broader set of variables, including congestion control and quality of service parameters. So be sure to query edge switch suppliers and service providers about this issue.

ATM switches designed for carrier networks are likely to be too overpriced for use in all but the largest private networks. While ATM workgroup and private network backbone switch prices can be an order of magnitude more than, say, a LAN switch with the same number of ports, ATM switches for carrier networks can run still another order of magnitude more.

Indeed, vendors of carrier-oriented ATM switches, including Alcatel Telecom, Lucent Technologies, Inc. and Northern Telecom, Inc., declined to provide even a starting price for their carrier switches.

The adage that "If you have to ask the price, you probably can't afford it" is likely to apply in these cases.

The carrier-class ATM switch is structured somewhat differently from its private-network sibling, especially with regard to redundancy and fault tolerance. Management capabilities are also different from private-backbone switches in that carrier switches are designed to provide more call accounting information on the thousands of PVCs and SVCs going through them.

Still, from a technology perspective, there is nothing so radically different in the design of a carrier ATM switch that would warrant you paying the significantly higher price tag than what you would shell out for a private ATM network switch.

ATM in the middle

Users considering ATM need to first decide where, tactically speaking, ATM fits into their networks. Few can afford the time, cost or disruption of overhauling existing networks and replacing everything—end-to-end—with ATM.

Workstations connected via 155M bit/sec ATM connections have at least three times the bandwidth of a 100M bit/sec FDDILAN.

Because ATM is full duplex, users can be sending 155M bit/sec of data while receiving 155M bit/sec at the same time FDDI is a shared media LAN, which means all stations contend for the 100M bit/sec of bandwidth it offers for sending or receiving.

Given the enormous bandwidth boos



ATM equipment

The Short List highlights products Network World recommends you examine when shopping for ATM equipment. The vendors and products cited here are divided into the three main ATM equipment categories: switches; network interface cards (NIC) and adapters; and legacy LAN-to-ATM switches. These products can meet the needs of users with multivendor enterprise networks. Your needs may differ.

ATM switches: The ATM switch industry is subdivided into niche markets, including workgroup and private-network ATM switches; edge switches that provide access to carrier-provided ATM services; and carrier ATM switches. The undisputed leader in the ATM workgroup and private-network arena is Fore Systems, Inc. and its Forerunner products. Fore's technology has been so popular that it is being used in many other vendors' ATM products. For edge switches, check out Northern Telecom, Inc.'s Magellan Passport, a versatile and popular switch designed especially for this environment. In the carrier world, two vendors' latest generation ATM switches represent the state of the art in power, features and price/performance: Newbridge Networks, Inc.'s 36170 MainStreet and Cascade Communications Corp.'s 500 ATM Switch.

ATM NICs and adapters: The choice of vendors and products in this category is as equally diverse as switches. But if you're looking for proven interoperability with a number of vendors' switches, support for a broad range of workstations and servers, and price/performance leadership, be sure to include the products of **Adaptec**, **Inc., Interphase Corp.** and **Fore** on your short list.

Legacy LAN-to-ATM switches: When it comes to connecting your existing LANs via ATM, the product you select will depend in large part on what LAN types you're now supporting. If your environment is anything like that of most large companies, you have multiple LAN types. In that case, be sure to check out Bay Networks, Inc.'s Centillion 100, Cisco Systems, Inc.'s Catalyst 5000 and Xylan Corp.'s OmniSwitch. Each product is a modular system capable of supporting varied LAN types and offers impressive expandability as well as all the features needed to transparently run your LANs over an ATM network.

that ATM brings to the picnic, you need to apply this bandwidth prudently and appropriately, and to the extent your budget allows.

If you or your chief financial officer decide — after some preliminary designs and looking over a request for proposal or two — that you will keep ATM within the backbone for now, you will need to mate your existing legacy LANs to that backbone.

Products are available that permit most popular LAN types to connect to, and over, ATM. But the design of such mixed-technology environments needs to be carefully worked out to ensure that ATM's advantages of speed, concentration and multiplexing based on cell switching are exploited. And users developing such designs need to learn, too, about the current amalgamation of standards that are used for marrying LANs to ATM.

For example, nearly all of the legacy LAN-to-ATM switch products in the Buy-

Visit Network World Fusion for more ATM coverage. You'li get links to our ATM: From LAN to WAN special section that include:

➤ A cover story recapping movements in the adoption of ATM standards

➤ A look at how Argonne National Laboratory is employing ATM

➤ The results of a Mier Communications test of ATM switches from Agile, Bay, Fore, 3Com and Xylan

Type the number to the right in the DocFinder box on the home page.

Network World Fusion http://www.nwfusion.com

er's Guide chart on page 96 support the ATM Forum's current LANE specification as well as the Internet request for comment for carrying TCP/IP over ATM. And choosing the most popular interface specifications for your ATM gear will entail careful investigation and ongoing monitoring.

You should scrutinize legacy LAN-to-ATM switches to learn exactly how they handle various forms of LAN traffic, such as broadcasts and multicasts. Often there are special mechanisms, or limitations, involved when it comes to broadcasts and multicasts.

Some legacy LAN-to-ATM switches are designed to work with another, separate ATM switch when it comes to certain LANE services, such as translating between the media access control address of LAN packets and corresponding ATM addresses.

Fore Systems, Inc.'s ES 3810-Ethernet Switch, for example, relies on an ATM workgroup or backbone switch for this function. Other legacy LAN-to-ATM switches include such functions integrally.

If you want to extend your ATM network to include workstations or servers, you'll find selecting an ATM network

interface card (NIC) or adapter fairly straightforward. If you like, you can pick the least expensive one that supports your workstation or server bus and the speed you want. Just about every NIC and adapter listed in the Buyer's Guide chart on page 100 supports one or more of the key ATM standards, such as LANE, UNI 3.0 or 3.1, TCP/IP over ATM or bridging over ATM.

But be aware that there are differences

among these products, especially in performance. For example, some NICs do most or all of the ATM cell processing on their own, whereas others rely more on the host system's processor. There are other issues as well, such as the amount of memory and buffers on the NIC and the processing power it has to segment packets into cells and reassemble them.

The bottom line is this: With all the pieces in place, the prospects for ATM are

good, especially with prices continuing to spiral downward.

Mier is president of Mier Communications, Inc., a Princeton Junction, N.J.-based network consultancy, product test center and technical publisher that will release next month the third edition of its "Taking ATM to Task," a report on ATM equipment, suppliers, technology and market trends. He can be reached at (609) 275-7311 or at ed@mier.com.

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Internet health report

Continued from page 1

the situation won't likely get better until some major standards issues get settled and resulting products filter out—probably a year from now.

That's not to say the Internet is broken; it plugs along every day delivering E-mail, supporting large file transfers and barely keeping pace with the demands of World-Wide Webusers.

However, a series of elements threaten the existing 'Net infrastructure. Carriers are scampering to stay ahead of capacity requirements, while at the same time dealing with some high-profile failures. The Net's workhorse routers are buckling under the strain of unchecked network growth; they often become confused due to changes in the network, losing blocks of data wholesale and sacrificing performance. Traffic exchange points are often clogged.

Underscoring the 'Net's fragility, some carriers are even offering enhanced Internet services that provide access to the Internet, yet move traffic over private conduits.

All of these technology issues aren't lost on users. In a *Network World* survey of 200 readers, 65% of respondents say the reliability of the Internet has either gotten worse or stayed the same in the last six months; only 30% say it has improved.

"A company that's spending its money to have reliable communications has to use a privately contracted network with guaranteed response times," says Seldon Ball, a computer technical adviser at the Wilson Synchotron Laboratory at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y. "The public Internet is just not reliable enough for that. It's not something you can bet your company on today."

Guy Cook, president of Colorado SuperNet, a superregional Internet service provider that hosts Web sites for corporate titans such as General Motors Corp., doesn't wholly disagree. "The challenge now is to make this a more reliable network," he says. "What we're dealing with is a relatively immature network infrastructure that needs to be further developed."

Cook doesn't expect a catastrophic outage of the Internet anytime soon, although he does see an increase in the frequency of brownouts or other events. Then there's Bob Metcalfe, who repeatedly has warned the networking community that the Internet is on the verge of a collapse of catastrophic proportions.

Metcalfe, who gained fame for inventing Ethernet and now works for *NW* parent International Data Group, recently softened his stance slightly,

agreeing with Cook that there will be an increase in the frequency and the impact of outages and service brownouts. Considering recent events, Metcalfe's original vision seems prophetic.

A series of human and technical mishaps last month knocked out America Online, Inc. and its 6 million customers for nearly a day. Back in June, Netcom On-Line Communications Services, Inc.'s backbone took a major hit that stranded 400,000 users without service. Apex Global Information Services, Inc. (AGIS) this spring experienced router snafus and suffered outages due in part to a meltdown between its network center and a major Internet traffic exchange point.

And even MCI Communications Corp. — which many say carries the bulk of Internet traffic — announced a moratorium on new dedicated access customers for its Internet service between mid-February and mid-March when the carrier pushed through a badly needed capacity upgrade.

Those are only some of the publicly acknowledged events. There are scores of others everyday, "some which are minor and others which are major," according to Phil Lawlor, president of the Dearborn, Mich.-based

"[Packet loss]
problems seem to
be getting worse,
despite the
aggressive use of
route damping,"
says Merit's Craig
Labovitz.



AGIS.

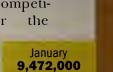
Are these the strains of a network ready to collapse? They could be. Although some, including many ISPs, say they are only a chain of unrelated occurrences. Metcalfe doesn't think so

"The problems are systemic," Metcalfe says. "The billing mechanisms, the settlement mechanisms and the management operations just are not there; hardware is not ultrareliable, and the software is susceptible to human error as we saw in the Netcom case. It's going to get worse before it gets better."

Rudderless ship

services in a

What's happening with the Internet is more than the fits and starts of technology; the very organizational underpinnings of the Internet have been ripped out and replaced by a loose structure that relies on competition to deliver the appropriate



12,881,000

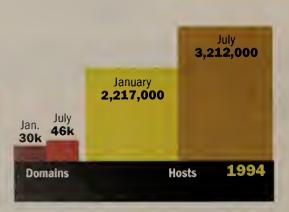


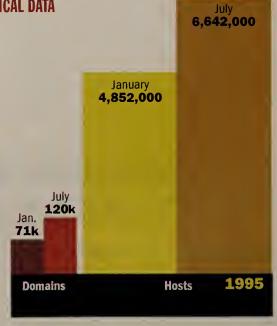
DRAMATIC GROWTH HAS MADE THE INTERNET UNSAFE FOR CRITICAL DATA

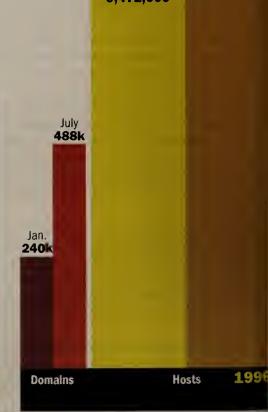
Note: Domains are groups of addresses owned by a particular concern. For example, *Network Worlds*'s domain is nww.com.

SOURCE: Network Wizards. This data is available on the Internet at http://www.nw.com









reliable and a cost-efficient manner. Lost in the transfer of the Internet from a publicly run facility to a privately owned and operated hodgepodge of networks is the control and guidance that the National Science

The Internet core currently

exchanges an average of 5

million routing updates a

day. The Internet handled

spikes of 10 million

updates on April 10 and 7

million on May 14. Both of

those surges were caused

by single, small Internet

service providers,

underscoring the impact a

single ISP may have on the

routing instability in the

core Internet.

Foundation (NSF) previously exerted.

Today, network operators are responsible for their own infrastructure, but no has overall responsibility for the 'Net. "People report no problem with their component, but the system as a whole is losing traffic," says Mark Luker, program director for NSF Network.

The Internet has undergone remarkable change since the NSF retired the NSFNet backbone in April 1995.

What once was an architecture that

revolved around noncommercial traffic feeding into NSFNet from downstream research, military and other nets, has evolved into a collection of about a dozen core backbone providers. These companies — known as network service providers (NSP) — share commercial and research traffic at exchange points (see story, page 108). Local and regional ISPs contract with backbone providers to carry their traffic for the long haul.

"It has become a much larger, more stratified and more costly entity within which to operate," says Gordon Cook, editor and publisher of "The Cook Report," an authoritative newsletter about ISP activity.

It is precisely that backbone diversity that leads NSPs and others active in the Internet community to brush off Metcalfe's claims. "Multiple transient outages have occurred, and they cannot be nailed down to any one thing much like the phone network," says Pat Craig, group manager of IP services for Sprint Corp., a major Internet backbone provider.

"All of the large providers have had periods of genuine horror shows in the network, and we've all taken turns catching javelins," says Michael O'Dell, chief technical

officer for UUNET Technologies, Inc. The Internet has been designed to withstand major outages, even a nuclear attack, O'Dell adds. "It's hard to imagine something that will produce a worldwide failure of the Internet."

There are signs though, that the Internet is heaving under enormous strain.

A Network World survey of major NSPs revealed that for different providers, traffic loads have tripled, quadrupled and — in MCI's case — increased 3,000% over the same time last year.

Many of the measurements captured by the Route Arbiter — an NSF funded project to collect network statistics — indicate a degradation in performance since the breakup of NSFNet, says Bill Norton, network engineer with Merit Systems, Inc., an Ann Arbor, Mich., organization that oversees the Route Arbiter project. Norton also chairs the North American Network Operators Group, a coalition of ISPs that make decisions on Internet operational issues.

"We're not at the level of performance we had with NSFNet, but then again it didn't have nearly the number of users supported today," Norton says.

The overwhelming popularity of the Web is also leading to congestion and sapping performance all across the Internet.

"Every Web connection has a whole bunch more independent connections hidden under the covers," says Dan Benjamin, an Orlando, Fla.-based Internet consultant. "Eventually, we're faced with having to rethink how applications are deployed on the Web."

Another source of congestion are the exchanges where NSPs hand off traffic destined for another provider's network. NSPs constantly refer to these sites as choke points where data backs up on access lines and where overloaded equipment melts down.

A host of equipment, network

Rob Hagens says upgrading MCI's Internet backbone from 45M to OC-3 was "an easy sell" to top management.

design and policy issues contribute to congestion at these sites. Increasingly, NSPs are making an end run around the exchanges by setting up one-to-one deals, known as peering relationships, with other carriers.

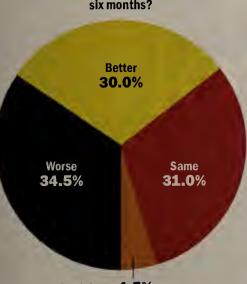
Flap trap

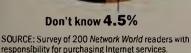
An issue that may ultimately pose a more serious threat to the Internet's reliability than capacity problems is a phenomenon called route flapping.

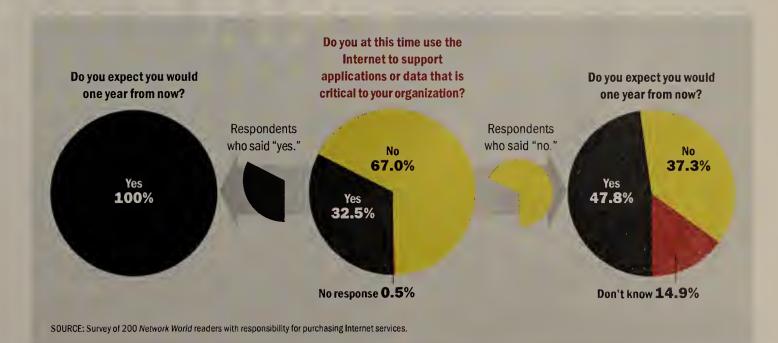
Route flapping occurs when an Internet-attached router intermittently ceases transmission across a wide-area link. This can be caused by configuration errors, status changes in net links, software bugs and other problems.

Most commonly, a router looks for administrative packets shipped over a link; these packets advise about route changes and status across the Internet. If the administrative message is not received, the router eventually stops transmitting over the questionable link. Only after other routers broadcast messages that the link is viable will the router resume transmission. Thus

Would you say the reliability of the Internet has gotten worse or better over the past six months?







the line flaps up and down, according to Jordan Becker, vice president of network services at backbone service provider ANS.

This is becoming an especially troublesome issue for NSPs or ISPs that don't have the memory or the hardware in place to deal with it, says Craig Labovitz, a network engineer with Merit Systems. Instability caused by route flaps results in poor

- There's more on Fusion:
- The Routing Arbiter site maintained by Merit Systems is expected this month to launch NetNew, a prototype tool that provides real-time NAP and ISP backbone delay and packet loss performance statistics.
- © Check out what ISPs, NAP operators and others had to say about the state of the Internet at the May 1996 North American Network Operators Group meetings.
- A visual map of the network service provider interconnections and traffic exchange points. includes hotlinks to NAP traffic statistics.
- The Internet Weather Report, a daily MPEG map that displays congestion hot spots and other conditions on

Network World Fusion
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the network.

performance for the end user and makes sites momentarily unreachable, he says.

Compounding the issue is the fact that route tables for the Internet have grown wildly complex, leading to a situation where routers can't keep up with the changes. If a router's forwarding cache becomes invalidated by a lack of updates, the router doesn't know how to forward packets. "Essentially, the processor gets a firehose directed at it, which causes some very ugly failure scenarios," says UUNET's O'Dell.

How serious is route flapping?

Mark Kosters, the principal investigator for the Internet Network Information Center, labels flapping as "the biggest issue the backbone ISP community is dealing with." Route flaps are occurring with greater frequency at the core of the Internet. Current router technology is "stretched to the breaking point," he says. "Routers often spend more time with routing updates than they do with sending user data."

According to a Web posting at the Routing Arbiter, "severe levels of routing instability can lead to poor network performance (such as packet loss, latency and interruptions of service)." Cisco Systems, Inc., whose routers dominate on the Internet, has teams of experts roaming

among ISPs to milk the most from the routers and ensure they don't seize.

At one point last spring, the Routing Arbiter posted packet loss numbers of 30% to 50% for some NSPs. A 10% loss is noticeable in service performance, while a 50% loss almost renders a service unusable, Labovitz says. Even today, during daily peak periods, he says, it is not uncommon to see a few providers with packet loss rates of 30%. A good deal of that is tied to fluctuation in routing tables.

Part of the reason that routes flaps have become prevalent is the growth of the Internet. As you increase the number of routers across the 'Net, routing tables grow enormously, and some routers eventually lose track of all the possible routes required to calculate a least cost path.

"Their opinion of routes is different," says Brent Bilger, director of product marketing for Cisco's Service Provider Market unit. "When routers get out of sync with other routers, then you have problems in your internet."

Cisco, whose routers are used by almost every NSP, has deployed a route damping algorithm to lessen the effect of route changes. In essence, the routers are taught to ignore some of the routing updates. That leads to a trade-off between information suppression and route optimization, UUNET's O'Dell says. "The

more you aggregate routing knowledge, the greater the chance you will produce less optimal routes."

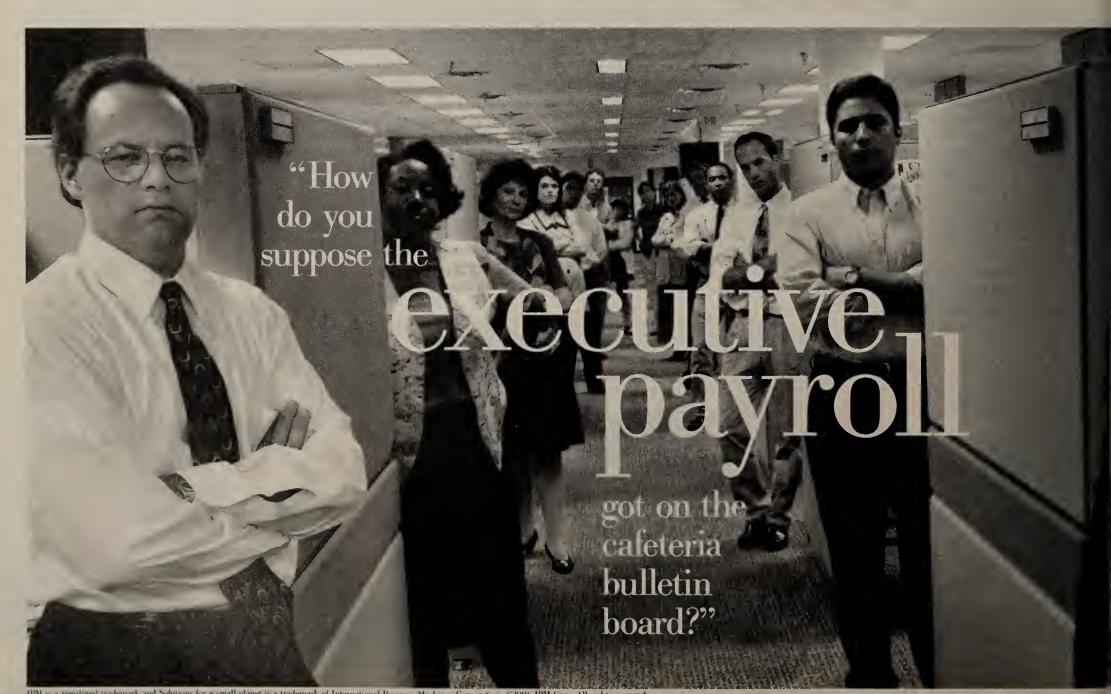
Officials at MCI and Sprint say route damping methods have all but eliminated the problem from their backbones. But Merit's Labovitz says, "The problems seem to be getting worse, despite the aggressive use of route damping." Carriers are beginning to mandate use of Complex Inter Domain Routing address blocks, which are analogous to area codes and are meant to reduce the number of updates flowing across the 'Net.

Capacity constraints

While ISPs must contend with the route flap events, they also must be on the lookout to throttle back congestion as it flares up. Most NSPs today closely guard the capacity percentages of their backbones, fending off questions about capacity limits by saying their backbones are not stressed.

But consider the plight of MCI, which last spring would not allow new dedicated access customers to hop on its network for an eight-week period. MCI's backbone was in serious trouble back then, with packet loss rates of 20% to 30% on most of the West Coast.

Rob Hagens, MCI's director of Inter-Continued on page 109



INTERNET BACKBONE PROVIDER INFRASTRUCTURE COMPARISON

Number

of POPs

200+

103

350

450

240

350

400

745

30(2)

Backbone

155M

45M

45M

45M

622M

45M

45M

45M

45M

Apex Giobal

Information

Services, inc.

BBN Planet

DIGEX, inc.

NetCom On-Line

Communications Services, inc.

MCI

PSinet

Sprint

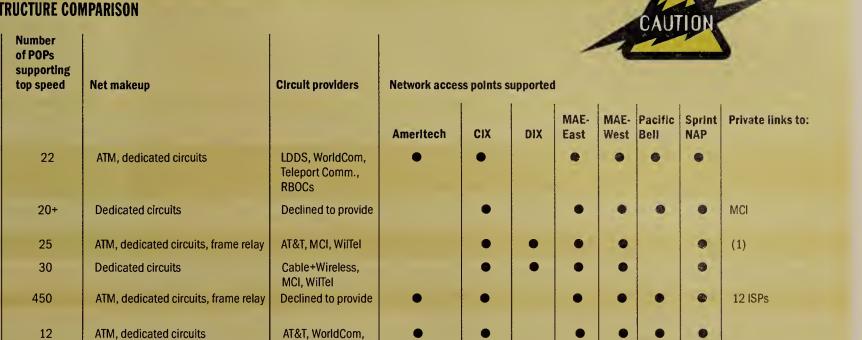
UUNET

Technologies

Advanced Network

Services

speed (bit/sec)



Footnotes: (1) BBN Planet has private peering with UUNET East, UUNET West, MCI Atlanta, MCI Boston, MCI San Francisco, MCI Washington, D.C. (2) DIGEX expects to have 61 POPs by year-end. (3) UUNET also connects to MAE-Houston, and says it will soon have a direct link with Sprint.

Sprint

Declined to provide

Declined to provide

ATM, dedicated circuits, frame relay

Dedicated circuits

Frame relay

Key: CIX = Commercial Internet Exchange, DIX = Digital Internet Exchange, MAE = Metropolitan Area Exchange

25

400

41





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(3)

Routing across the 'Net - pass the hot potato

hen the NSF Network backbone was decommissioned in April 1995, it was replaced by four network access points, basically exchanges at which commercial Internet service providers could pass traffic to one another. Ever since, ISPs have been rewriting the 'Net routing rules

If you're trying to contact a resource located on your service provider's network, the process is simple: Traffic is sent to the ISP's router, which does an address lookup, identifies it as an onnetwork destination and sends it on its way. But contacting a resource off your provider's network is another story.

Backbone ISPs — known as network service providers (NSP) — do not want to incur the cost of carrying traffic destined for another provider's network. So each will find the nearest point at which it can hand off data to the destination network or to an intermediate transit provider — a practice known as hot potato routing.

The graphic (at right) shows a hypothetical example of how traffic might flow between users in Boston and Seattle. Note that, instead of handing

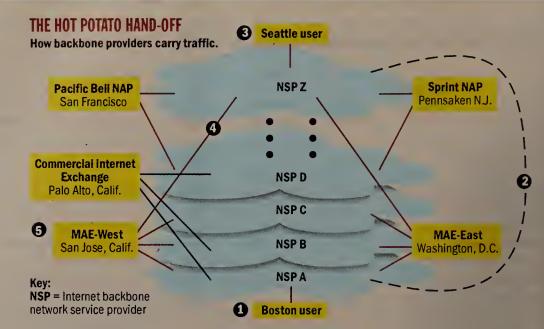
off data to an intermediate NSP, any two NSPs may have a special peering agreement, where they nail up a dedicated circuit via which they exchange large loads of data, such as the one between NSPA and Z in the example shown. On the return trip, NSP Z will likewise look for the nearest location to hand off traffic—in this case, the exchange point in San Jose, Calif. In this fashion, each NSP winds up paying its fair share of transport costs.

What NSPs and ISPs don't want is a local or a regional provider that dumps traffic to a backbone carrier but has no presence elsewhere in the country to handle an equitable load of return traffic.

In that instance, the local or regional provider must pay the backbone carrier for transit carrying charges.

"When you purchase service, by default you're choosing a backbone provider," says John Curran, chief technology officer for BBN Planet. So, even though you may be dealing with a local or a regional entity, you should learn about their upstream backbone provider.

There is an exception to this procedural routing system. Some service providers offer enhanced IP services or so-called private Internet services. Basi-

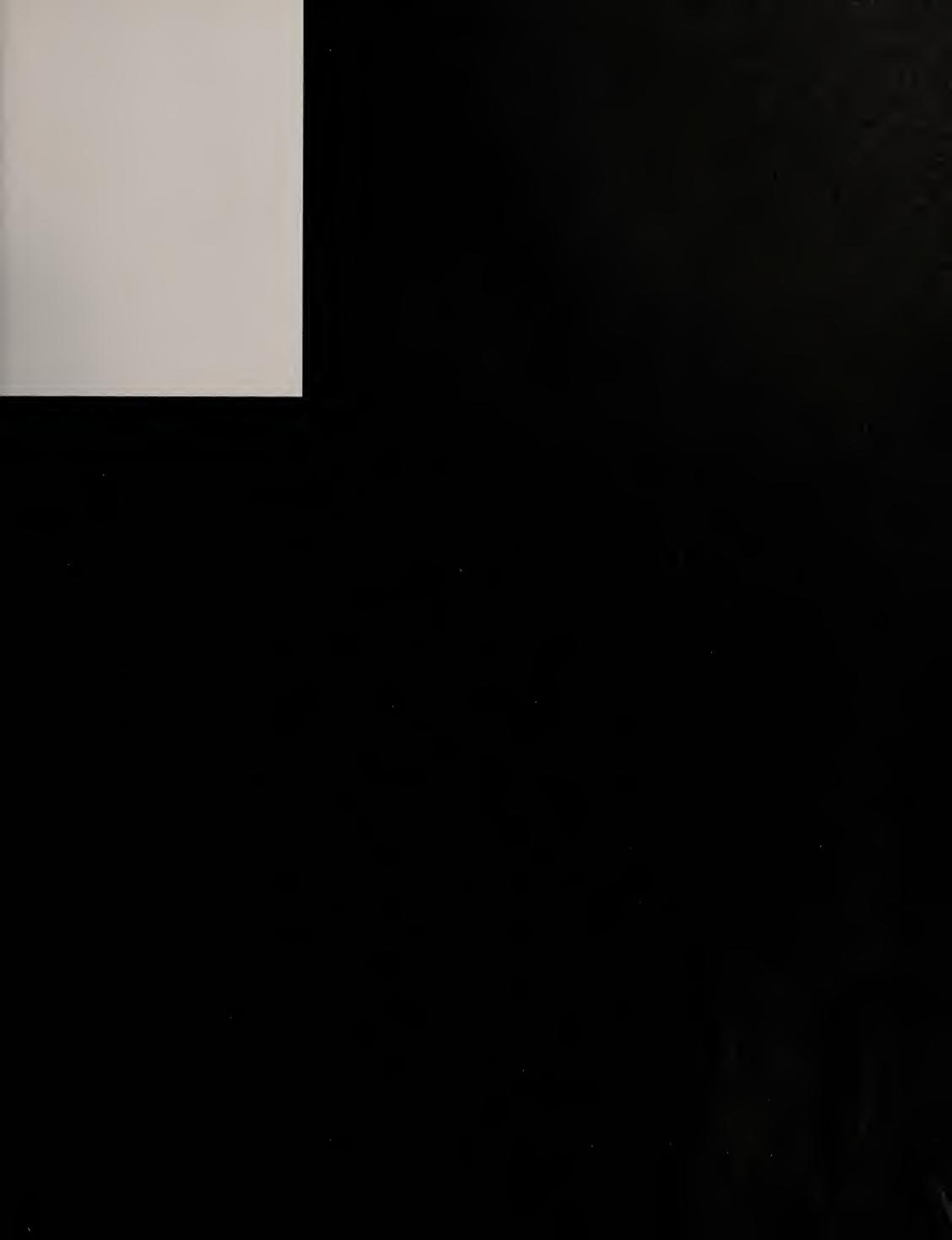


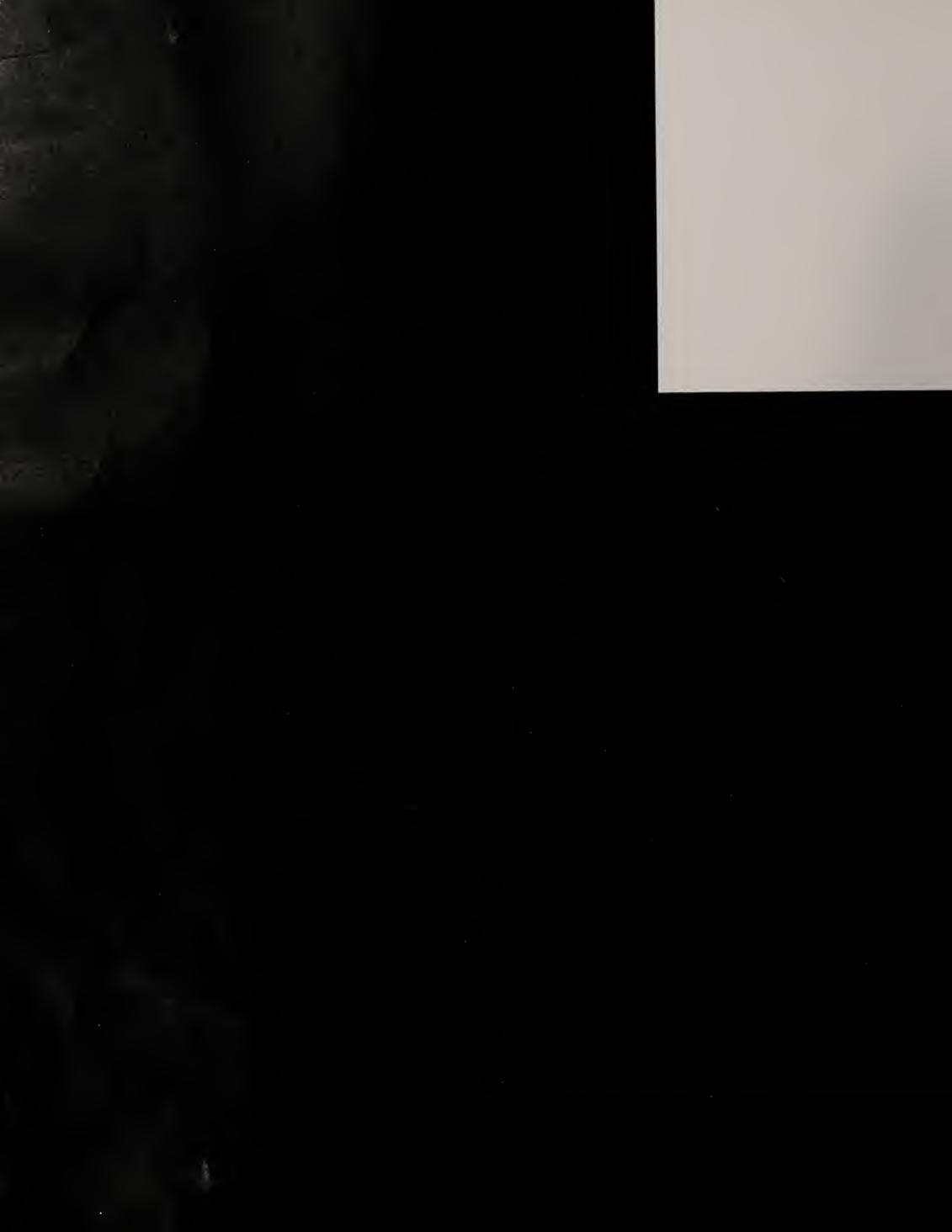
- 1. Boston-based user attached to NSP A sends E-mail to Seattle company attached to NSP Z.
- 2. NSP A looks for nearest exchange point, which turns out to be a private interconnect in Boston with NSP Z.
- 3. Seattle recipient replies.
- **4.** NSP Z looks for closest place to hand off data to NSP A. The private interconnect is no longer an option because the destination NSP is expected to bear the bulk of transport costs.
- 5. NSP Z ships data to MAE-West in San Jose, where it is handed to NSP A for delivery.

cally, these services give you a connection to the Internet, but your data rides over the service provider's backbone until it reaches the nearest point of exit to its destination. "We can control the quality of our service on an end-to-end basis," says Pat Craig, Sprint Corp.'s group manager of IP services. Some customers, he says, want this type of service to engineer parallel lines, with one for higher priority traffic.

-- Charles Bruno







Continued from page 106

net engineering, says an upgrade of the backbone from 45M bit/sec to OC-3 was "an easy sell [to top management] because Internet backbone services is one of the great new revenue areas of the future.'

Other sources say MCI's Internet division may have supported the upgrade, but top management waffled on the investment until the company started turning away dedicated access customers.

To understand MCI's capacity woes, consider this: The carrier's ATM-based Internet backbone now handles 250 terabytes a month — that's a whopping 3,000% increase over this time last year. (A terabyte is equal to 1 million mega-

Part of the problem, not only for MCI but for other ISPs, is predicting the loads they will be carrying, says Scott Bradner, a consultant in Harvard University's Office of Information Technology.

In the early days of the Internet, Bradner says it was possible for carriers to oversubscribe a line by 8 to 1 — even 20 to 1, in some cases — because users were typically exchanging only E-mail. That meant a carrier could sell you a T-1, for instance, and multiplex your data along with other users' onto a single T-1 feed linked to the core of the network.

"That worked fine until the distortion

brought about by the Web," Bradner says. Now, it is much more difficult for carriers to estimate what percentage of a line users will tie up. That forces NSPs to add infra-

structure at the core to handle capacity demands. In addition, many backbone providers carry traffic for resellers that oversubscribe their lines, wreaking havoc on NSP capacity planning.

Tending to ever-changing capacity requirements certainly reduces congestion on NSP backbones, but there are other points of congestion, too. Almost every backbone provider fingers the Internet's traffic exchange points as congestion culprits.

The exchanges are simplistic interconnects that usually rely on an FDDI or, less often, an ATM switch to pass traffic among dozens of NSPs and ISPs. Service providers purchase one or more ports on the switch. They may also choose a less costly

option, such as a 10M bit/sec connection to an attached FDDI ring, or they can lease a port on an FDDI hub that links the ring to the on-site switch.

Connecting to a switch is just the first

step; each NSP is then responsible for hammering out traffic exchange agreements with any number of NSPs or ISPs presentat the site.

MFS Communications

Company, Inc.'s MAE-

East connects major

domestic ISPs, as well

as European providers.

Since June, the

suburban Washington,

D.C. facility has been

switching at near

capacity of 380M

bit/sec, up from

200M bit/sec.

In effect, the exchange operator has little responsibility — other than maintaining the working order of the switch and any attached rings.

"A lot of problem reports are handled by the NSPs because so many of the events happen in the complex routing layer," says B.J. Chang, director of technology programs in the Advanced Networks Group at MFS Communications, Inc. MFS operates several exchanges known as Metropolitan Area Exchanges (MAE). MFS's Washington exchange — MAE-East — was one of four original NSF-funded exchanges.

Eighteen months ago, when the NSF decommis-

sioned NSFNet, it funded establishment of four network access points (NAP), which were the first Internet exchanges. Under NSF provisions, each of the four NAPs — located in Pennsauken, N.J., Washington, D.C., Chicago and San Francisco — has to be connected to at least two others to provide for alternate path routing in the event of an outage.

The NSF recently curtailed funding of the four NAPs, citing their success as commercial entities.

Chang says many of the Internet exchanges are getting a bad rap over the congestion issue. "The place where congestion seems to occur is not in the exchange, but in the access links that lead to the exchanges," she says. For instance, the shared ring some exchanges operate may become saturated.

"There is no method of congestion control in this setup," says AGIS President Phil Lawlor. "Any one participant could flood the others' full access capabilities."

Second-tier relief

An entire second tier of Internet exchanges is beginning to dot the 'Net landscape in places such as Phoenix, Los Angeles, Houston and Dallas. Digital Equipment Corp. just entered the business, launching the Digital Internet Exchange (DIX) in Palo Alto, Calif., where it will provide service for the Commercial Internet eXchange, BBN Planet

While most exchanges are operated by a carrier that supplies the circuits leading





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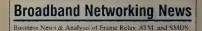
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up to the exchange switch, Digital will use a variety of telecommunications carriers, according to DIX Manager Al Avery. "If you become disenchanted with one service provider, you can switch to another without having to relocate your gear to another site," Avery says. The other advantage is ISPs and NSPs using the site can employ physically divergent paths into the DIX.

MFS' Chang believes the second-tier exchanges will ease the pressure on existing sites. "My theory is we'll see much more content distributed locally, and that will mean there will be less traffic trying to shove into the big exchanges."

NSPs, meanwhile, aren't sitting idle. Increasingly, they are reducing their reliance on the exchanges and setting up direct peering relationships with other providers. So, if two carriers have enough traffic to justify a DS-3 between each other, they will set up the connection instead of pushing the traffic to an exchange. Sprint, for instance, has set up

The Internet

continues to double

in size approximately

every 12-15 months.

five direct exchange links with MCI and four with UU-NET, Cook said.

MCI says it has 12 direct interconnects with ISPs. UUNET says it has four in place and two more on the drawing board.

"If the NAPs are congested, the private interconnects are the antidote," Cook says. Part of that antidote may be to cure economic ills; connecting to an exchange is a costly undertaking. According to "The Cook Report," the annual cost is about \$100,000, and many providers are

tied in to multiple exchanges.

The private interconnects are "the only kind I'm building from now on," UUNET's O'Dell says. "The exchange points are unscalable. They will exist and provide a certain breadth of coverage, but they are doomed long term."

While NSPs and exchange operators grapple with these issues and more, some users remain unfazed. Indeed, 57% of respondents to the *Network World* reader survey say they forged ahead with Internet plans despite outages and brownouts. Only 19% of say they postponed projects out of concern.

Count Paul Zengilowski, president of Burlington, Vt.-based Data Clearing-house Corp., are among the apprehensive. He says law firms often ask his clearinghouse if it uses the Internet to transport data to clients.

"They're asking us the question not because they want to know if we will, but because they want to make sure we are not using it," Zengilowski says. The main objection from law clients is security, but for Data Clearinghouse, "reliability of service is the real factor."

Phil DeMar, a network analyst at Fermi National Accelerator Labs in Batavia, Ill., brings up yet another issue. "The general perception in our community is that there has been some degradation in the type of

performance we've seen on the Internet over the past year or so,'' he says. "I think a lot of it is due to congestion."

It's hard to disagree with either user's assessment. While NSPs maintain that their nets are highly reliable, their move to direct connections for traffic exchange seems a sure sign that the NAPs and other traffic exchanges are problematic.

If you listen to the NSPs, they say route flaps are under control; yet other reports

indicate damping hasn't snuffed out all the fires. But, perhaps the biggest issue is the service providers' ability to stay ahead of capacity requirements. The key to that will be the emergence of bandwidth reservation and quality-of-service functions.

So yes, plans are underway to remedy many of these problems. But if you're betting corporate dollars and your career on what's out there, you'd better stay off the 'Net on-ramp. Freelance writer Joanne Cummings of Marlborough, Mass., and Network World Online Senior Writer Chris Nerney contributed to this report.

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NetworkWorldReview

Revised GroupWise grows up

By Travis J. Berkley

With GroupWise 5, Novell, Inc. has enhanced almost every aspect of the groupware platform that began life as WordPerfect Office. The new product's messaging and conferencing capabilities are in the same league as those of Microsoft Corp.'s Exchange and Lotus Development Corp.'s Notes, but you also get integrated document management and workflow, along with easy administration that relies on the powerful Novell Directory Services (NDS). In other words, GroupWise 5 is a well-rounded groupware package that makes it easy to access and share information.

Our evaluation of a near-final beta version of the software revealed a product with more data access options than ever. Its open architecture supports many network operating systems and provides hooks for third-party applications to easily tie in. The system administration functions, now presented in a Windows-based environment, are more intuitive, more powerful and easier to navigate.

The server agents have been enhanced significantly since the release of Group-Wise 4.1. While end users will not directly appreciate the changes, you'll probably have far fewer headaches when it comes to upkeep and load balancing.

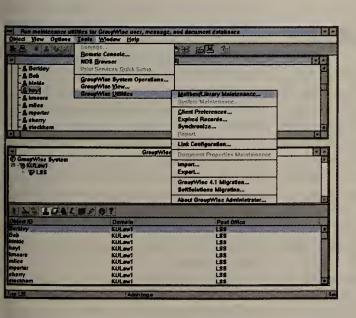


Figure 1: You can launch maintenance on a Group Wise user from NWA dmin, shown here with the new Group Wise view and snap-in options.

Another big change is the servers of GroupWise 4 are replaced with agents in GroupWise 5:

■ Message Server is replaced by a Message Transport Agent (MTA) that transports data between message stores, performing

any necessary conversions.

Administration Server is now an Administration Agent (ADA) that is responsible for functions such as adding users, meeting replication requests and domain database maintenance.

■ Post Office Server is now a Post Office Agent (POA) and handles post office message stores and libraries.

We tested all three types of agents for both NetWare and Windows NT.

One major enhancement is the ability to schedule maintenance at any time of day or night. You can schedule an "Analyze and Fix" job nightly, while each weekend you can run a more robust check that includes scanning contents and indexes. You can also schedule maintenance on the libraries that store document management information. To facilitate clean backups, you can tell the ADA to remain idle for a period of time. The interface to this feature was functional in our beta copy, but the developers had not yet enabled the buttons that caused the execution of scheduled events.

Another interesting feature is the ability to have numerous POAs servicing the same post office. Each POA interacts with client/server requests. For heavily used post offices, this can distribute the work-

load over many different machines and processes to help with load balancing. We used the Net-Ware Loadable Module (NLM) and NT agent simultaneously with two machines and experienced no problems.

Administration of all facets of GroupWise 5 is handled within the NetWare Administrator program, NWAdmin, through the use of snapin modules. Four new tabs in the Details windows offer options for each GroupWise user. Also, a View option can be activated to show domain and post office

information in the top pane and user, resource and library information in the bottom pane (see Figure 1).

For most of the system maintenance in GroupWise 4, administration was a tedious process, performed largely one

		SCORECARD		MAIDIN		
		Overall score		9.5		
		Administration	(20%)	9		
Mat	Doculto	Connectivity	(20%)	10		
NetResults		Features	(20%)	9		
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Product	GroupWise 5	Installation and documentation	(10%)	9		
Vendor	Novell, Inc. (800) 453-1267 (801) 429-7000 www.novell.com	Scores based on a scale of 1–10. Categories are weighted by percentages shown. The World Class award is given to product that achieve a rating of 9 or above on our product scorecard.				
Price	100 mailboxes – \$13,340					
Pros	 ▲ Flexible administration ▲ Will support 7 server and client platforms by year-end ▲ Integrated message and document sharing ▲ Many connectivity and gateway options 					
Cons	 Requires Novell Directory Services, meaning sites without NetWare 4.1 will have to upgrade ✓ Moderate learning curve for new administrators 					

user at a time. Maintaining GroupWise now is as simple as pointing to any resource in NDS and clicking on System Maintenance. Repairs, if necessary, are handled by either the ADA or the POA, whichever is appropriate. As with the previous version, maintenance may be performed while users are active in the system.

Since GroupWise administration is built around NDS, it can be centralized or distributed. With the previous version of GroupWise, administration could only occur on a domain level. Additionally, different people can be given different administrative chores.

Have data your way

Connectivity and the ability to get to your data in a variety of ways is a strong point of GroupWise 5. For backward compatibility, Novell designed the GroupWise 5 MTA to be compatible with the GroupWise 4 remote clients. The MTA performs message conversion from Version 5 to Version 4, and can upgrade post offices one at a time in a domain.

GroupWise 4 clients used shared post office box files, which put the burden of data manipulation on the client. If your server lacks processing power, this could be an acceptable solution, and, in fact, this option is still available in GroupWise 5 and functions in the same manner. However, it does require that the client have some form of direct access to the post office, making it possible for the user to accidentally delete or corrupt data.

GroupWise 5 offers an additional client/server option in which the message stores are always on a file server. Users communicate with the agent via TCP/IP, which means no direct drive mapping to the server is required. Users do not have to be authenticated to the server.

With this option, the client makes

requests directly to the POA. Since the administrator is free to implement many POAs for a single post office, the agents can be moved to points on the network that balance the load, eliminate bottlenecks and facilitate faster response. It also provides tighter security, since the client does not need direct access to the post office.

Remote users used to require a product that kept separate databases and address books and synchronized them when connections were made to the PO,

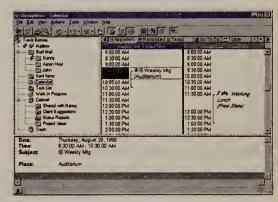


Figure 2: The main window of the 32-bit GroupWise 5 client shows the mailbox, calendar and file cabinet in the left pane. You can quickly see what folders have new items by the icons on the left of each folder. The Quick Viewer appears in the lower pane.

much the same way Lotus Notes performs replication. The new client comes with remote capabilities bundled in. If you select "Hit the road" from the Action menu, it downloads copies of whatever you select locally to, say, your laptop. When you make a connection, select the same option and GroupWise sends copies of the messages, addresses and whatever else you created, updates the message stores on the server and you're back in client/server or file-sharing mode again.

For users on the go, Novell's Web Access is a handy way to access personal information without the need for a spe-

your complete post office box. Web Access was released recently for Group-Wise 4, and a version that works with Group-Wise 5 will ship with the initial release. It will have the same functionality as the current Web Access version, meaning only those functions available in Group-Wise 4 will be included. A version planned for late this year or early next will support message attachments, document management and access to shared folders.

Any Messaging Application Programming Interface (MAPI) 1.0-compliant mail client can also access the GroupWise 5 message stores, either through file sharing or client/server access. For example, using the standard Microsoft Exchange client that ships with Windows 95, we were able to access our GroupWise 5 mailbox. Exchange still displays information in its native format, so items such as appointments appear as mail messages, but they are accessible.

Within two to four months after the initial release, GroupWise 5 is slated to have a back end available to provide Post Office Protocol 3 (POP3) and Internet Message Access Protocol 4 services. This was not available for evaluation.

Like its predecessor, GroupWise 5 supports a variety of gateways to link to multiple platforms and systems. And, by using the GroupWise 5-to-GroupWise 4 message conversion built into the MTA, you can upgrade to new versions of the gateways as they are released. New versions of the gateways were not available for this evaluation.

The only stated requirement for running GroupWise 5 is NDS running on one

HOW WE DID IT

We installed GroupWise 5 on a Tangent P-90 server running NetWare 4.10 with 128M bytes of RAM and 2G bytes of disk space. Our clients ran:

- NT Workstation 4.0 on a Microtech P-90 with 32M bytes of RAM
- DOS 6.22 and Windows 3.11 on two clients, a Microtech P-90 with 32M bytes of RAM and a Zenith Z-Station 486/DX33 with 12M bytes of RAM
- Windows 95 workstations on two clients, a Microtech P-90 with 16M bytes of RAM and a Microtech 486/DX2 66 with 16M bytes of RAM

We installed the message stores and NetWare Loadable Module agents on the NetWare 4.1 server. We installed the NT agents on the NT Workstation client.

To put the product through its paces, we performed basic day-to-day functions: creating E-mail, scheduling calendar events, noting tasks and making notes. We also created documents to share and check out. On the administration side, we added and deleted users and performed database and library maintenance.

NetWare 4.1 server anywhere on your network. As Novell develops versions of NDS for other platforms, a NetWare server will no longer be a necessity.

The NetWare agents installed easily and required no special attention to run. As the Setup Wizard gathers information about your domains and post offices, it automatically creates the configuration files that each agent needs and saves them in the server's System directory. In addition, it creates a script file to make starting the agents a one-command process. Domains and post offices can be on any version of NetWare 4.X and 3.X.

Setting up the NT agents was just as straightforward. The agents can be installed to either a file server directory or to a local disk. For our testing, the agents were installed locally on Windows NT Workstation 4.0. The screens look similar to the NLM screens, except that menus are available via mouse clicks instead of via function keys.

Both the NLM and NT agents were stable, even in this beta release. While we couldn't re-create the volume of our 4,000+-user production system, we encountered no server crashes and could perform maintenance without incident.

Agents for other platforms are in development. Three to five months after initial release, Novell says agents will be available for SCO Unix, HP/UX, AIX, Sun Solaris and OS/2.

A new face

One of the most prominent additions to the GroupWise package is the arrival of a 32-bit client. It is written for Windows 95, but Novell says it will be supported as a Windows NT 4.0 client by release date.

What grabs your attention first is the multipaned appearance of the client, similar to that of Lotus Notes and Microsoft Exchange (see Figure 2, page 113). It juxtaposes folders and hierarchical structures with content and items. A third pane containing the Quick Viewer, a means of browsing your information, can be opened along the bottom.

Novell has expanded on the universal in-box concept by adding a few new features and enhancing current ones.

The Mailbox, called the In Box in the previous release, is still the common entry point through which all items reach the user. Also, just as with the previous version, all items sent by the user are stored in the Sent Items folder, formerly known as the Out Box. The functionality of the Calendar and Task List folders remain consistent enough for veteran users to pick up where they left off with the previous version.

Also, the Trash is now simply another folder. As with previous versions, the Mailbox, Trash and now the Calendar icons each change to reflect new items that require the user's attention.

The Cabinet, which is the default location of the unlimited number of folders users can tailor to their needs, gives you a tremendous amount of flexibility in organizing your data. You can use rules to automatically move inbound items from the Mailbox to alternate locations. While you cannot make subfolders for standard

items such as Mailbox and Calendar, you can add folders to the top level of your post office box and nest folders however you wish. A Work In Progress folder is available to save draft messages.

A powerful new feature in GroupWise 5 is shared folders, a feature also found in Microsoft Exchange. Without help from the administrator, users can share folders and their contents with other users (see Figure 3). If the user exists on another post office, replication of the items occurs behind the scenes. The right to read a folder is implied, but you may also grant the right to add to, modify or delete what is already in the folder. Once you've done this, a dialog box asks for a message to be sent as an invitation to the user you've designated. When the recipient reads and accepts the invitation, a folder is created in his Cabinet and sharing is immediately activated.

Shared folders are a prerequisite for discussions, which are basically threaded online conversations. Message threads can be expanded and collapsed to make it easier to find a particular thread of interest. Formatting the text seems to be rather crude — no hard returns, no tabs and no addition of white space — but the functionality of a bulletin board feature is a welcome addition. As with all GroupWise message types, you can attach files to a discussion item.

E-mail in any folder can also be viewed as threads. By default, GroupWise shows messages you have sent, denoted by red arrows, interspersed with the messages you have received. If you do not wish to see your outbound messages, you can simply click off that filter in the toolbar.

For a look at what other beta testers had to say about GroupWise, and a list of GroupWise gateway offerings, enter this number in the DocFinder box.

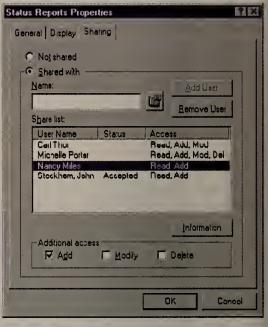


The address book in GroupWise 5 has taken on a completely different look. Integrated within previous versions, it is now a separate executable program that can be browsed or called while addressing messages. A nice feature of the Address Book is the Frequent Contacts book. As each message is sent or received, its address is picked out and placed in the Frequent Contacts book. You can use this book, sorted by number of contacts, just as any other.

To find a name, just start typing in one of the destination fields; the client looks for matches based upon which field you're typing in. It first searches Frequent Contacts, then the user's personal address book, and finally the system address book, containing all GroupWise users. Once an address is selected, it is displayed by showing the person's full name rather than some cryptic form of address. As before, you can logically combine users into groups, but you now can save these

groups in any of your personal address books.

The ability to find a piece of information in an ever-expanding mailbox is always a challenge. With GroupWise 5, you can use the Find tool to locate a text string in any message type. The Find options allow the user to selectively control which folders to search, what message



Flgure 3: To share folders, you specify users and their access rights. An information button brings up additional data on the person highlighted.

types to look for, and even specific information about the author, delivery date or version. This is quite a handy feature for those who don't clean their mailbox as often as they should.

Workflow is a new addition to the GroupWise suite, though it was not available in the beta version we tested. Workflow is designed to automate processes — messages can be forwarded to the appropriate personnel, actions can be triggered based on the type of message or its content, and the progress of the entire procedure can be tracked and monitored.

Novell has also folded its SoftSolutions document management product into this version of GroupWise. Any program that can take advantage of Open Document Management APIs can tie into the Document Management features of Group-Wise 5. Other documents can be manually merged into your post office box. Once you've done this, you can check documents out to others, keep track of revisions and the history of a document, and control how and whether people can access the document concurrently. To set up document management, an administrator must define at least one library. A library is an area where documents are stored when not checked out to a user. Documents are encoded when checked in to the library — an added security bonus.

When someone makes a request to check out a document, it is copied from the library to a directory the user specifies. If you attempt to check out the same document, you'll be informed as to who has already checked it out.

Wise but quirky

With all the improvements on the server side, Novell might be excused for devoting less effort to enhancing its clients. But happily, that doesn't appear to

be the case.

The Windows 95 32-bit client is a feature-rich tool, but we question some of the design choices. For example, those who create regularly scheduled appointments using the Auto-Date feature might be confused by the behavior of the Set Alarm action. If you remember to set the alarm before going into Auto-Date, the result is what you would expect: each event will have an alarm set on it. But if you try to select Set Alarm after you have used the Auto-Date, the option is grayed out, and no event gets an alarm associated with it.

Another potential "gotcha" is that the Quick Viewer marks items as opened. So if you thumb down through your In Box with the Quick Viewer, the messages you pass are marked as read whether you actually opened them or not. If you do not know about this feature, you might overlook a mail message that is actually new.

The 16-bit Windows 3.1 client has changed little since Version 4.1a. It cannot take advantage of most of the features added to the 32-bit client except for client/server connectivity. This was not an oversight on Novell's part. In fact, after considering Novell's recommended upgrade path, it makes the job of moving to Group Wise 5 a much more manageable

When the post office is upgraded from Version 4 to Version 5, the 16-bit client, which also runs under Windows 95, is delivered automatically to the desktop. This lets the users begin using GroupWise 5 immediately in an environment they are familiar with. Users can then migrate to a full-featured 32-bit client whenever it is convenient.

Novell plans to provide a version of the 32-bit client that runs under Windows 3.1 with Win 32's extensions about two to four months after the initial release. This will give users the power of a 32-bit client without forcing them into a new operating sys-

There's also a full-featured Macintosh client for both Motorola and PowerMac architectures available with the initial release of GroupWise 5. The initial beta version was unavailable for review, but the client is reported to be similar to the Windows 95 client. Migrating in the Macintosh environment will be more of a plunge because there will not be an olderlooking client compatible with Group-Wise 5, unless users are running the remote client.

Two to four months after initial release, and not currently even in beta, Novell expects to release clients for AIX, HP/UX and Solaris.

The one client not available in Group-Wise 5 that was present in Version 4.1 is a DOS client.

Into the spotlight

The decision to upgrade from previous versions to GroupWise 5 is all but a foregone conclusion. The new 32-bit clients pack the power of document management, sharing and workflows. Administration is now easier, more flexible and more configurable. Client/server connections and MAPI 1.0 compliance provide more options to get to your information, and shared folders make it easy to share that information. The wide variety of platforms supported ensures that everyone can join in the fun.

Even if you are not a current user of GroupWise, you should consider it as your primary groupware platform. It offers an enticing superset of the functions of Microsoft Exchange and overlaps largely with the capabilities of Lotus Notes, though with simpler administration.

The alliance is a cooperative of users, consultants, educators and integrators that applies its technical and business skills to analyze and compare strategic network products. A list of alliance partners can be found on page 87.



Berkley is a Certified Novell Engineer and supervisor of LAN support services at the University of Kansas, where he is chief administrator of the university's 4,000+ user GroupWise implementation. He can be reached via E-mail at berkley@ukans.edu.



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APPLICATION CENTRALIZATION

NEAR-LINE ARCHIVING



By Kieran Taylor

hen it comes to tying in remote users, it's understandable if you scoff at the latest high-speed technologies such as ATM and frame relay. The core of carrier networks may be built on multimegabit pipes, but most small offices and remote users are relegated to slowly sipping that ocean of bandwidth through a straw. Well, that straw is about to become a water main.

Beginning early next year, carriers will begin to aggressively market various Digital Subscriber Line options. Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) has been getting the most attention of late, but it will be joined by Symmetric DSL (SDSL), Rate Adaptive DSL (RADSL) and Very high-speed DSL (VDSL) services. Another iteration, High-speed DSL (HDSL), is already in use for provisioning T-1 and E-1 lines but is being modified to function as an access technology.

Although these technologies are just unfamiliar acronyms today, they could supplant tried-and-true access technologies for specific applications. Simply put, ADSL and its DSL cousins use spectrum on ordinary copper phone lines currently unused in basic telephone service, which employs lower frequencies.

When an ADSL modem is placed on each end of a copper phone line, three information channels are created: a high-speed downstream channel, typically used for transmissions to the user; a lower speed duplex channel; and the same plain old telephone service (POTS) channel ordinarily carried across copper phone lines. The high-speed channel ranges from 1.5M to 8M bit/sec, wheareas

duplex rates range from 16K to 1M bit/sec, each depending on loop length and quality.

One of ADSL's biggest advantages over analog modems, ISDN and HDSL is that it provides support for POTS without any impact on data throughput. The reason is that ADSL uses frequency-division technology, enabling the POTS channel to be split off from the other two channels. This

guarantees uninterrupted POTS even if power to the ADSL modem fails. This lifeline support for POTS communications is not found in most competing solutions, including ISDN and HDSL, which can furnish telephone connections but do so by consuming 64K bit/sec of bandwidth.

A battlefront forms

All the various DSL technologies will

NVNEY

Service skinny: In August, NYNEX announced a 50-line trial of Internet access and work-at-home applications with Lotus software designers and developers in the Boston area. The carrier is using Westell FlexCap modems configured to run at 1.5M bit/sec downstream and 64K bit/sec upstream, simultaneously supporting data and voice. From the trial, NYNEX says it hopes to develop services to support work-at-home applications, corporate intranet construction and residential/business Internet access.

Pricing and availability: None yet announced.

PACIFIC BELL

Service skinny: Last month, Pacific Bell began a trial in San Ramon, Calif., involving 12 ADSL lines and Westell FlexCap modems. Initially, the modems were configured to support 1.5M bit/sec downstream and 64K bit/sec upstream links, but PacBell says they will be upgraded in the near future to support higher upstream rates to handle the demands of Internet traffic.

Westell will also supply multiplexing equipment and software to provide a gateway to the Internet from PacBell's central office. PacBell says the second phase of the trial, to begin in November, will involve testing other vendors' multiplexers. At that stage, the trial will be expanded to about 100 customers.

Pricing and availability: Pricing has not been announced, but PacBell says it plans to offer ADSL services to consumers in a limited area in the spring of 1997, followed by a larger launch midyear.

RELL ATLANTIC

Service skinny: A 100-line ADSL technical trial for Internet access began in June and was upgraded to market trial status in August when 500 lines were added. The trial relies on Westell's FlexCap modems. It's expected that Bell Atlantic will use data-based ADSL to create Internet access and remote LAN access packages for business and consumer use.

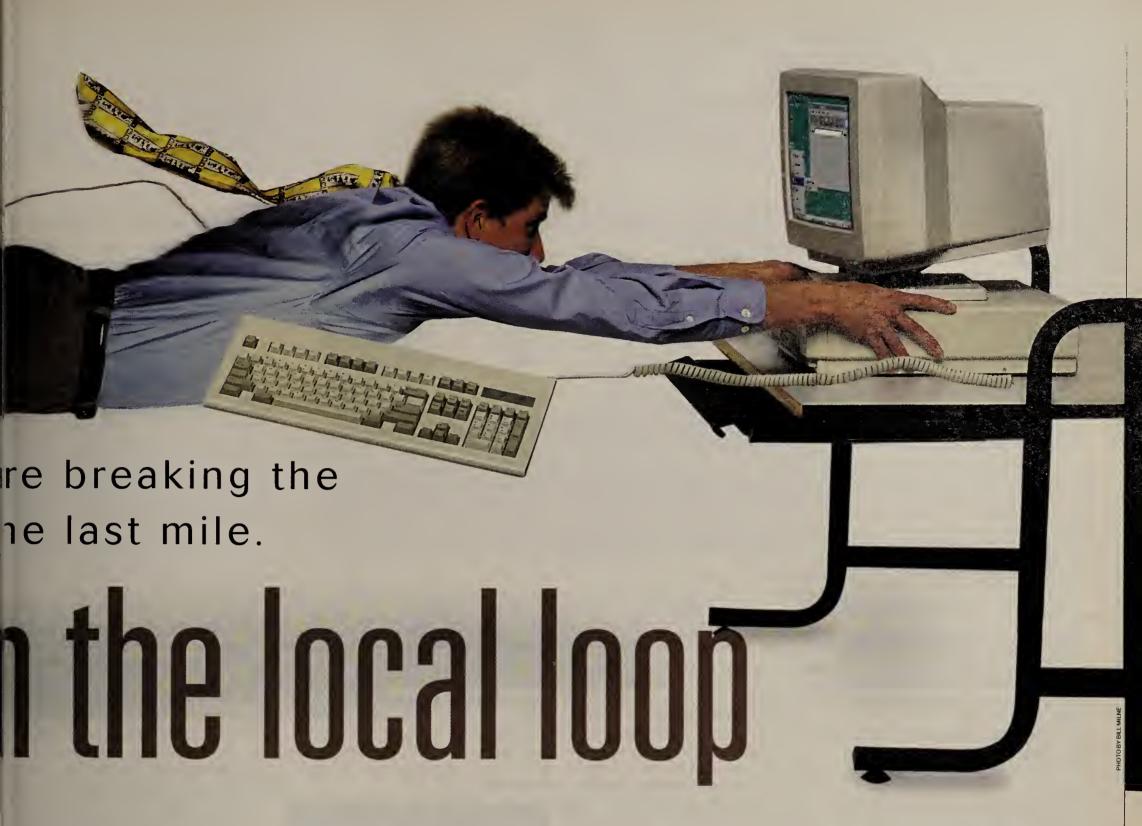
In addition, a 600-line Internet access trial is underway in Fairfax County, Va., along with a 1,000-line video-on-demand trial cailed Stargazer. Bell Atlantic estimates nearly 2,000 households are active participants in these trials and has stated that it hopes to market commercially available data and video services to over 20,000 residences in the second quarter of 1997.

Pricing and availability: Although specific pricing has not been firmly set for data access or Internet services, Bell Atlantic has stated that prices in the range of \$30 to \$50 per month are not out of line. Availability is scheduled for the first half of 1997.

US WEST

Service skinny: A 20-line trial is under way in Boulder, Colo., as well as a 120-line pilot in St. Paul/Minneapolis, both using FlexCap modems from Westell and HDSL modems from PairGain. The focus is on video-on-demand applications, Internet access and remote LAN access.

Pricing and availability: Services are expected in the first quarter of 1997 at \$50 to \$100 a month.



compete with existing offerings, most notably ISDN Basic Rate Interface and analog modems. Carriers and equipment vendors are at work on improvements that will boost the capacity of the older technologies, but DSL is likely to relegate each of them to niche applications, albeit not overnight.

"The new and old access technologies are definitely going to coexist. There's a

need for analog modems and Basic Rate ISDN because there's a huge installed base to support," says Joe Glynn, director of network design for US WEST, Inc. Glynn points out that these local-loop approaches are now tried-and-true options, and many network managers have invested in communications servers that support critical analog dial-up and ISDN BRI connectivity.

However, Glynn expects customers will eventually change their tune. "I don't expect a rapid change, but customers will begin looking at DSL in the coming years for applications like LAN interconnect as well as Internet access," he says.

Both of these applications are asymmetric in nature, demanding a multimegabit downstream delivery to the user and a slower upstream link into the network to

transmit basic commands — exactly what ADSL provides. Glynn envisions the connection of routers to external DSL bitpumps that will furnish connections far faster than today's T-1 frame relay links. These connections will likely support frame relay or ATM traffic.

"When the power consumption of DSL chipsets drops, you may even see that DSL function integrated into routers or other edge devices," Glynn adds.

Most regional Bell operating companies are trialing ADSL, and most will have service offerings in mid-1997. Initially, they will be in major cities where there is the potential for increased take-up rates. Large-scale deployments to more remote areas will likely come in 1998.

Assessing access options

In the meantime, most remote networkers have to use more commonly available access methods. The most ubiquitous and inexpensive of the options is the analog modem. While its speeds (usually 14.4K or 28.8K bit/sec) can leave some seasoned World-Wide Web slingers wanting, it has two factors on its side.

First, even the latest modems can cost as little as \$200. When compared to any other technology, the analog modem is the only solution truly within the reach of the average consumer. And unlike any other option, it doesn't require any modi-

SBC COMMUNICATIONS

Service skinny: Although SBC has not made any public announcements to date, sources within the company confirm the carrier is trialing ADSL in Houston with 50 Shell Oil employees who are using it for high-speed, interactive remote LAN access. Sources would not disclose the names of vendors in its test, but said the trial involves over 50 lines running with 6M bit/sec downstream channels and a 640K bit/sec duplex channel. The higher throughput rates are necessary because the type of remote data access applications in use involve moving extremely large files of data, possibly CAD/CAM files.

A separate and smaller technical trial involves a few lines running at 1.5M bit/sec downstream and 64K bit/sec upstream. Sources indicate additional corporate trials will be announced in the coming months but that consumer-based trials won't occur until mid-1997.

Pricing and availability: None yet announced.

BELL SOUTH

Service skinny: Trials are limited to video-on-demand pilots in Chamblee, Ga., which began in late 1995 and early 1996. Although the number of lines has not been disclosed, it is estimated that approximately 30 employees are involved in the test, which uses DMT-based modems from Orckit Communications. The modems are configured to run at 6M bit/sec downstream.

Pricing and availability: None yet announced.

AMERITECH

Service skinny: A six-month ADSL trial conducted in conjunction with IBM is to begin next month with about 200 Chicago-area customers. The trial will involve a data access service with upload and download speeds up to 1.5M bit/sec using Westell ADSL modems. Trials testing ADSL interoperability with other switching platforms, such as ATM, are planned for an unspecified later time.

Pricing and availability: None yet announced.

GTE

Service skinny: In February, GTE began a six-month trial of ADSL data and Internet access in the Ft. Worth, Texas, area. Approximately 30 lines were deployed for participants, including the Irving Public Library System, ProTech Books (a sister company of Taylor's Bookstores), The Internet Store and area GTE employees. The trial's goal is to place the technology in the hands of consumers frequenting those stores who may be likely to buy high-speed Internet access. In July, GTE added two Circuit City stores to the trial.

Internet access. In July, GTE added two Circuit City stores to the trial.

In August, GTE announced a 100-line trial in Redmond, Wash., with Microsoft and GTE employees. The trial uses FlexCap modems from Westell and DMT modems from Amati. The focus is on work-at-home applications and enhancing Windows NT to support ADSL.

Pricing and availability: Pricing has not been disclosed, but services are expected in the first half of 1997.

fications to service provider's central office (CO) equipment — making it the only option for anytime, anywhere network access.

While connection speeds vary, nearly every RBOC will condition phone lines to enhance modem connection speeds. And the recent addendum to V.34, the current International Telecommunications Union modem specification, will enable connections up to 33.6K bit/sec. While that's a fraction of the speeds DSL can offer, with V.42bis compression enabled, users can achieve throughput of 115.2K bit/sec or more.

These speeds are enough for basic Internet surfing, E-mail transmission and small file transfers. But the days of analog modem access are numbered as users demand improved access speeds to the Internet and corporate resources.

"There will absolutely be a decline in the use of analog modems beginning in 1998," says Flynn Nogueira, manager of the ADSL program office at GTE Telephone Operations in Irving, Texas. "There's a good chunk of users on the Internet who are frustrated with slow speeds, and it won't take much at all to push them to ISDN or ADSL."

ISDN vs. ADSL

When it comes to a question of ADSL vs. ISDN, Nogueira says the two technologies are complementary and suited to different applications. GTE is aggressively marketing ISDN today and is conducting two ADSL trials. The first, in Irving, is targeted at businesses. The other is in Redmond, Wash., where Microsoft Corp. employees are helping fine-tune ADSL and Microsoft software to support workat-home applications — the same market ISDN targets today.

While the results of those trials are still being tabulated, Nogueira points out that ADSL offers a permanent packetswitched connection, while ISDN is circuit-switched, much like voice, and offers guaranteed bandwidth.

Use of the Multilink PPP enables users to inverse-multiplex the two B channels of a BRI link to support a 128K bit/sec connection. With the compression schemes found on most access servers such as the Ascend MAX, throughput can go as high as 512K bit/sec.

The more expensive ISDN Primary Rate Interface — it averages about \$1,300 per month — offers 23 B channels and one control channel, producing an aggregate rate of 1.544M bit/sec.

BRI's 128K bit/sec is enough to support applications such as videoconferencing that require the deterministic bandwidth circuit switching provides. The much higher speed ADSL is suited to support data applications, such as file transfer, Internet access and E-mail transmission, where latency is not a concern.

If you need to support a large number of simultaneous voice and data transmissions, you will likely rely on ISDN PRI as the technology of choice for some time. Unlike ADSL systems, equipment such as PBXs that support PRI can individually route as many as 23 incoming voice or data calls to appropriate endstations.

COMPARISON OF VAROIUS XDSL TECHNOLOGIES

	ISDN	Single pair HDSL	CAP ADSL (current)	(October '96 revision)	DMT ADSL (Current)	DMT ADSL (October '96 revision)	VDSL	Analog modem
Downlink speed	128K bit/sec	768K bit/sec	1.5M bit/sec	7M bit/sec	6M bit/sec	8M bit/sec	51M bit/sec	33.6K bit/sec
Uplink speed	128K bit/sec	768K bit/sec	64K bit/sec	1K bit/sec	640K bit/sec	1M bit/sec	1.6M-2.3 bit/sec	
Major applications	Internet access Transparent LAN services	• Internet access • Transparent LAN services • Video conferencing	Internet access	• Internet access • Video on demand	Internet access	Internet access Video on demand	Video on demand	Internet access
Reach with 24 gauge wire	18,000 feet	12,000 feet	18,000 feet	12,000 feet	12,000 feet	12,000 feet	1,000 feet	Not applicable
Simultaneous POTS over same pair	Yes, digital delivery	Yes, optional by digital timeslot, line powered	Yes, analog baseband	Yes, analog baseband	Yes, analog baseband	Yes, analog baseband	Yes, analog baseband	Yes, optional digital delivery
Carrier deployment status and issues	Approx. 400,000 lines deployed in N.A. 90% of wire centers ready (requires CO switch upgrade)	Approx. 200,000 two-pair lines deployed in N.A. 80% of customers within reach Uses commercial hubs and routers in CO	Trials under way 90% of customers within reach Uses commercial hubs and routers in CO	Small trials starting 80% of customers within reach Uses commercial hubs and routers in CO	Trials under way 90% of customers within reach Uses commercial hubs and routers in CO	Small trials starting 80% of customers within reach Uses commercial hubs and routers in CO	Not yet available Deployment issues yet to be determined	Ubiquitous deployment
Availability volume	Today	Today	Early 1997	Mid-1997	Early 1997	Late 1997	Late 1998	Now

While ISDN PRI will own that niche, ADSL and ISDN BRI will overlap one another when it comes to provisioning high-speed data access to small businesses and individuals.

Here at TeleChoice, Inc., we estimate there will be more than 10 times as many ISDN BRI lines as ADSL lines at the close of 1996. It's estimated that about 500,000 ISDN BRI lines are currently installed, and that number is on the rise. That means carriers will likely continue to support and market the service even while they bring up their first ADSL lines.

Another factor to consider is that, initially, ADSL connections will cost about \$2,000 per line to bring up. Although that number should drop dramatically, it will be a factor in early deployments.

Currently, the ADSL modem at the customer premises connects via ordinary phone wire to an ADSL modem, or a rack of such modems, at the telephone company CO. From there, it is handed off to an Ethernet switch, a router or an ATM switch that furnishes a connection to the Internet or another data network. Several vendors are at work on DSL Access Multiplexers that will integrate that functionality, but delivery is not expected until year-end. Such devices and improvements in modem design could lower the per-line price of ADSL deployment to about \$500 by mid-1997.

Several current carrier requests for proposals stipulate price points in that ballpark. If they are met, carriers should be able to offer ADSL services at a cost of about \$50 or less per month.

Once those prices are realized in 1998, TeleChoice predicts ADSL line deployment will take off so fast that by the end of that year, ADSL lines will number half that of ISDN BRI lines installed. Given ISDN's track record, those predictions may be hard to swallow. But ISDN and ADSL dif-

fer greatly in terms of service deployment.

ISDN typically requires costly software upgrades or replacement of CO voice switching equipment. Because the cost of these upgrades is amortized across a large number of users, telephone companies typically wait for significant demand prior to deployment of ISDN services. In other words, if you live in rural areas, you're left waiting.

Find it on Fusion

TeleChoice has assembled a boatload of Info on ADSL, from white papers to upcoming conferences and even a news archive. Access via Network World Fusion by typing 9609 in the DocFinder box on the home page.

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ADSL, by contrast, can be deployed without a large initial capital outlay. Rather than amortizing a large switch, telephone companies only need to recoup the investment of ADSL modems and some data communications equipment, such as an Ethernet hub and a router. Because users can be added incrementally by simply adding modems, ADSL services can be offered in rural areas without significant capital expenditure. What's more, modems can be relocated as needed when subscribers discontinue use of ADSL services.

There's no question that ADSL and ISDN will be aimed at the same markets: Internet access and telecommuting. While ISDN BRI's 128K bit/sec fills the bill today, the increased use of streaming video and audio applications on the Internet and in businesses will make BRI an

inadequate option for power users in 1998. At 128K bit/sec, the quality of Internet phone and video applications is barely tolerable.

On the other hand, Bill Kula, manager of media relations for GTE, has witnessed trial users' enthrallment with ADSL services firsthand. "The participants have said it has exceeded their wildest dreams. They want the service and say they will nearly pay anything for it," Kula says.

Howard Maher, vice president of marketing for ProTech books and a pioneer participant in GTE's trial, can testify to ADSL's promise. ProTech has ADSL modems installed in two of its stores to provide Internet access to customers.

"The ADSL modems are so fast that many of our customers thought we were loading Web pages from a huge hidden hard drive. It's incredible," Maher says. He thinks users "will be thrilled when they can get this [ADSL] service in their homes or businesses."

Service providers are still assessing how they will package these competing access technologies. "Different technologies will be appropriate for different customer segments," GTE's Nogueira says. "Education, health and travel industries will all demand different applications. We are currently determining which technologies fit the applications at hand."

Other DSL flavors

ADSL developers will concede that ADSL isn't the be-all, end-all high-speed network access technology. Indeed, some vendors have already announced the availability of SDSL and RADSL solutions.

While Internet access and video-ondemand applications are asymmetric in nature, services such as videoconferencing and transparent LAN services are not.

For this reason, several vendors are likely to ship SDSL and RADSL modems

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In late 1990, the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) initiated efforts to select a successor to the IP. In late 1993, the IETF formed the Internet Protocol — Next Generation (IPng) working group, which was chartered with investigating the various proposals, and recommending a course of action. The outcome of those efforts produced what is now known as IP version 6 (IPv6), which is currently being implemented by many vendors.

Perhaps more importantly, IP is the foundation of the TCP/IP protocol suite. Therefore if IP is revised, other protocols must be changed as well. The significance of this protocol revision extends to LANs, MAN and WAN transmission systems, as well as the upper layer protocols and application programming interfaces.

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- Discover how to obtain public domain sources of further information on IPv6

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in the fourth quarter of 1997. These solutions will boost upstream rates to support applications that demand more symmetrical transmissions.

Both SDSL and RADSL can be considered enhanced versions of ADSL. Similar line codes are employed, but software is tweaked such that the speed of the channels can be enhanced to support certain applications. Like ADSL, these technologies support simultaneous POTS.

While ADSL can currently reach top downstream rates of more than 8M bit/sec, several vendors have already identified the need for more speed over shorter distances — particularly for video distribution. Hybrid Fiber Coax is the usual contender for offering very high-speed services to the home, but some telephone companies lacking installed fiber or coaxial cable are looking for solutions that run over copper. The focus here

appears to be solely residential with some obvious work-at-home implications.

VDSL is one such technology likely to play in this space. It transmits high-speed data over short reaches of twisted-pair copper telephone lines, with a range of speeds depending on actual line length between the customer premises and switching equipment. The use of fiberenabled curbside switching systems is likely to keep those lines short.

The maximum downstream rate for VDSL is between 51M and 55M bit/sec over lines up to 1,000 feet (300 meters) in length. When lengths go beyond 4,000 feet (1,500 meters), the rate averages 13M bit/sec. While these distances are short in comparison with the loop lengths supported by ADSL, it's important to remember that these lines will likely be used in conjunction with the deployment of fiber to the curb.

Like ADSL, early VDSL implementations are asymmetric and offer upstream speeds from 1.6M to 2.3M bit/sec. Analog POTS support will also be possible because the frequency bands used for voice and digital transmission are separate. There is no standard for VDSL yet. It's likely to be well over a year before production VDSL units are available.

DSL domination?

DSL is likely to garner a significant por

Competing specs

hen it comes to Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) deployment, the industry is in somewhat of a quandary over two competing ap-

proaches. The first is called discrete multitone (DMT), the second, carrier-less amplitude and phase (CAP) modulation. Both will offer downstream rates in excess of 6M bit/sec and simultaneous duplex transmissions of 640K bit/sec or more oversingle-pair copper lines of 12,000 feet or less.

The ANSI Working Group T1E1.4 has approved DMT as an ADSL standard (ANSI Standard T1.413). The European Technical Standards Institute also contributed an Annex to T1.413 to reflect European requirements. CAP is vying for inclusion in this standard — it is currently a de facto standard produced by the former licensing division of AT&T Paradyne, now dubbed Globe Span Technologies, Inc. Although CAP does not enjoy standards status, it is deployed in most ADSL trials. This state of affairs could lead to the creation of a double standard, but both sides are working to avoid this scenario.

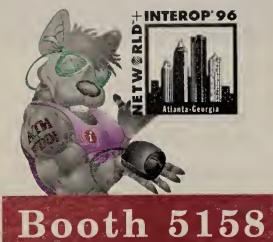
DMT divides the 1-MHz spectrum offered by a phone line into 256 4-kHz channels. It then varies the bit densities on each channel to overcome noise and interference that may be present in sections of that spectrum. Proponents of DMT argue it is better on noisy lines because it has the ability to maximize throughput on good channels and minimize use of those with heavy interference. In contrast, CAP relies on a single channel and uses techniques similar to the Quadtrature Amplitude Modulation used in V.34 modems, relying on a combination of amplitude modulation and phase shifts to increase line capacity.

-Kieran Taylor

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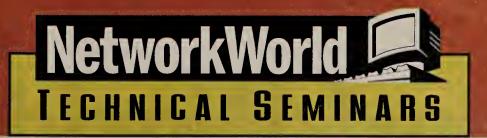
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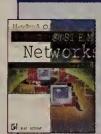
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*Programming subject to change.

tion of the local-loop data access market in the coming years, particularly when it comes to Internet access. TeleChoice forecasts that, by 1988, more than one million ADSL lines will be installed.

But that doesn't necessarily spell the instant demise of analog modems or competing services such as ISDN. Those transports will be supported for some time because of their large installed base and the fact that they will probably always be less expensive compared to DSL options. New data customers are the likely targets for initial DSL-based services and will be guided to use various flavors of DSL depending on their application.

So you'll need to match local-loop technologies to your budget and requirements. Analog modem access will remain a viable option for mobile users because of its ubiquitous nature. It's doubtful that ISDN or ADSL will show up in hotel rooms anytime soon. Modems will also remain the cheapest of the local-loop options for casual users. The telephone companies' significant investment in ISDN will likely

HDSL offers a cut-rate option

xcluding ISDN, which is based on DSL technology, High-speed Digital Subscriber Line (HDSL) probably has the largest installed base of all the DSL services. HDSL got its start when carriers realized it was cheaper than using repeaters to extend T-1 and E-1 services over long copper loops. HDSL-compatible cards at the central office and the customer premise employ sophisticated modulation and line coding techniques that permit signals to travel farther.

Currently, HDSL is used predominantly over two or three pairs of copper wire. This could change as vendors such as Pair Gain Technologies, Inc. of Tustin, Calif., with its Megabit Modem, are now shipping devices that connect over a single pair of wires. The penalty for operating over one pair is performance:

Current implementations top out at either 384K or 768K bit/sec in symmetrical configurations.

Single-pair HDSL will likely be used to provide Internet and corporate LAN access over ordinary phone lines and is currently being trialed by US WEST, Inc., GTE Telephone Operations and other carriers.

At about \$1,000 per line in quantities, HDSL modems are priced at roughly half that of current ADSL solutions. Therefore, HDSL may offer providers a lower cost, albeit lower speed, service option until ADSL vendors can lower price points. However, single-pair HDSL will likely be supplanted by ADSL and Symmetric DSL for data applications eventually since those services will offer higher speeds.

-Kieran Taylor

mean that rates will become more competitive in the coming years. For those users that demand "casual connectivity" (six hours a day or less), ISDN will remain a cost-effective method to obtain dial-up bandwidth. It will also remain the choice for users of desktop videoconferencing and other applications that demand low latency. ISDN PRI will remain the choice for businesses handling a large number of voice and data calls. While Internet access

will represent the bulk of DSL's duties initially, that will change as more traditional networking vendors embrace the technology. When that occurs, in about a year's time, service providers will likely expand DSL offerings to meet specialized needs of corporate networkers. These services could include transparent LAN services, remote LAN access and even basic frame relay and ATM connectivity over DSL circuits as DSL interfaces begin to appear on

devices such as routers and frame relay access devices. Competing remote access solutions won't disappear overnight, but, come 1997, they'll find that the new kid in town, DSL, is gunning for its fair share of the local loop.

Taylor is a broadband consultant at Verona, N.J.-based TeleChoice, Inc., a telecommunications consultancy specializing in xDSL consulting.



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The knowledge chief speaks

The raw data that people wade through and crunch in their workaday worlds may be maintained and distributed by an organization's technical wizards. But helping everyone to work smarter is increasingly becoming the responsibility of an emerging corps of top executives known as chief knowledge officers (CKO).

Big Six consulting firm Coopers & Lybrand has a leader in that new executive corps: Ellen Knapp. The firm's former chief

technology officer has been asked to collect and catalog the smarts of consultants worldwide into a data warehouse of what is being called intellectual assets.

Knapp recently talked with *Network World* Senior Editor Barb Cole about this new position and how she plans to spread knowhow across the enterprise.

What does a CKO do?

For [Coopers & Lybrand], my job entails all aspects of knowledge generation, both between people and between us and our clients.

As CKO, I will facilitate knowledge sharing among our 73,000 professionals, as well as between our people and client base. I will also be responsible for formulating a strategy with respect to new, knowledge-based products and services. Overall, I will look at

how we make our knowledge available through the Internet and throughout electronic communities.

Why are companies appointing CKOs?

We are in a business climate with a growth focus, as opposed to the reengineering or downsizing focus of the late '80s and early '90s. We've bottomed out in terms of what we can achieve in increased profitability through reengineering. The absolute focus [in corporations] is now on growth and innovation.

There has also been an accelerated move from the industrial economy to the knowledge economy. Also, companies are finding that they have all this information out there, but people can't get it.

What needs to be done to the computing infrastructure to support knowledge sharing?

From a network perspective, we need one-to-one connectivity to the World-Wide Web. Today, connectivity is more important than computing capability. During the next five years, most multinational companies will spend more money on communications than they do on computation.

Network security is incredibly important, too. However, one of the most frustrating issues relates to the global network. The cost of computing and the availability of secure environments across the globe severely hamper our ability to create a coherent, ubiquitous environment. This is particularly difficult considering that most multinationals are making enormous investments in third-world countries, where there is little [networking] infrastructure to count on.

To combat this, some organizations have established private virtual networks that combine land lines and satellites. Another obvious bridge is to use wireless networks.



Knapp is one of the CKOs emerging in the consulting world.

How does groupware enable knowledge sharing?

Clearly, traditional groupware products like [Lotus Development Corp.'s] Notes are becoming more suited for this because we're seeing a move toward a nonproprietary software paradigm among them. The vendors are adopting the metaphor and presumed ubiquity of the Web as the fundamental communication environment. The part of groupware that is really interesting can be found in companies that are building intelligent agents and knowledge agents.

At Coopers, we subscribe to news services, generate lots of our own knowledge and have a lot of information embedded in legacy systems. With software agents, you can request, for example, that information on three specific companies be delivered to your desk each morning.

Other products could help enormously, such as add-ons to groupware products that create knowledge maps of all the data in the company. There are also products that function as yellow pages for all the corporate databases. Such things make is easy to traverse your way through knowledge.

Most products in this category work across one type of database, though. We need software that works across multiple knowledge repositories.

Briefs

■ Learning Tree International has added eight courses to its instructor-led curriculum.

The courses are:

- Hands-On Routers: Building Multiprotocol Internetworks
- Hands-On ISDN for Data Communications
- Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 Workstation and Server
- Hands-On Windows NT Optimization and Troubleshooting
- Hands-On Implementing Windows NT Security
- Hands-On Windows Networking
- Hands-On Microsoft Access Programming
- Hands-On Microsoft Exchange
 The courses run four to five
 days at nationwide Learning
 Tree education centers and cost
 between \$1,995 and \$2,295.

■ The National Computer Security Association (NCSA) and the Computer Ethics Institute are cosponsoring CyberRisk '96 Nov. 7 and 8 in Arlington, Va.

The conference will help IS managers and network professionals learn how to deal effectively with liability issues surrounding network connectivity. Conference sessions include Workplace Monitoring; E-mail and Electronic Communications Privacy; and Virtual Organizations.

The cost is \$595. NCSA members can attend for \$525. NCSA: (717) 258-1816.

MANAGEMENT DATA ONLINE

Network World peruses online services for interesting tools or tips that will make your job easier and help you better manage your career. Here are a few:

Virus outbreak prevention

Ever wish your end users could do more to help you stamp out computer viruses? Make it a point to have them place a bookmark in their Web browsers for the antivirus.com site maintained by Trend Micro, Inc. The site has a Virus Emergency Room where users can go to get help in determining if their client workstations have picked up a virus from somewhere on the network. Users can also submit a sample of files they think might be infected with a virus for examination and receive notification of the results.

In addition, there is a virus alert area where users can get the skinny on the latest virus outbreaks and their likely causes. They can also subscribe to the Anti-Virus mailing list in this area.

You may want to look around the site, too. There is a white paper called "Viruses & the Internet" posted for download. The paper is aimed at LAN administrators and systems integrators and details the threat Internet viruses pose to internal networks. Of course, Trend uses publication of the paper as a chance to introduce readers to its antivirus products for the Internet.

A downtime cost calculator

Software vendor Interpose, Inc. and consulting firm Strategic Research Corp. have posted a Java applet that enables you to see how much money your company loses when network servers go down. The applet prompts you for the number of employees and LAN administrators in your company along with information about the length of the work week and gross revenue. Then you input data about what LAN administrators and end users are paid and the amount of downtime suffered.

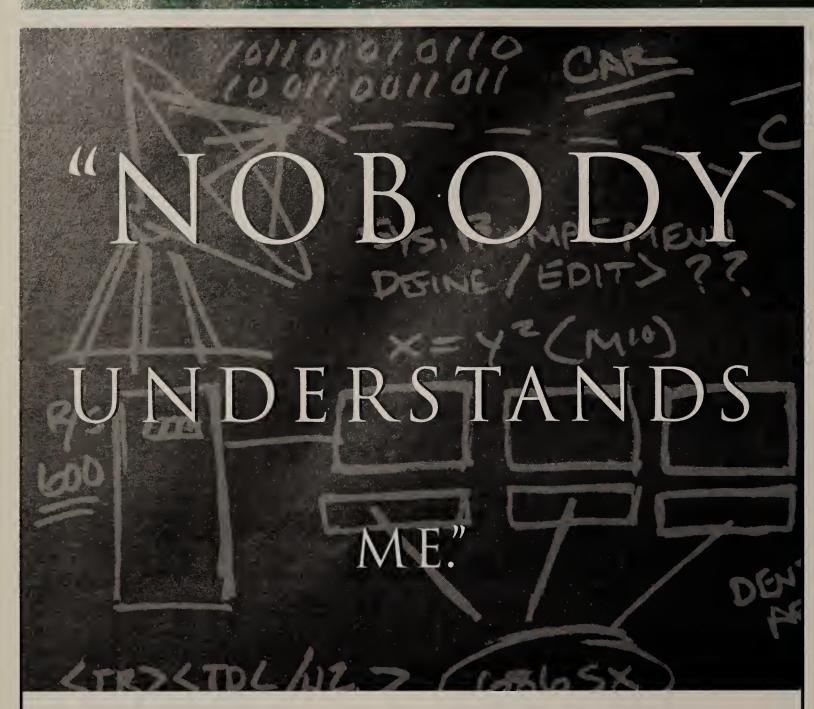
The Network Server Downtime Opportunity Cost Analysis Tool then tells you how much revenue your company lost due to outages and how that breaks down on a per-employee basis. It also tallies how many hours of downtime you had and how much each outage cost you.

Benchmark repository

DFW Internet Services, Inc. has a Benchmark

Scores Comparison Lists area where you can pick up results of various performance benchmark tests for DOS-, Windows-, OS/2- and Unix-based clients. In addition to describing various benchmarks, the site maintains a list of test results posted by other users. If you don't have a copy of the various benchmarks, links are provided to sites where you can download them. The benchmarks will help you better tune your clients for optimal performance.





If "dot com" are two of the most commonly used words in your vocabulary, we speak your language. We have one of the largest computer networks in the world—an internal intranet with over 50,000 web pages and growing daily. We also have an exploding client-server architecture that will employ distributed databases; object oriented technology; integrated video, data and voice to the desktop; mobile computing; virtual reality; groupware and a long list of other capabilities that grows by the minute. If it's happening in the world of Information Systems, we have it. What we don't have are enough Information Systems Engineers, Programmer Analysts, System Administrators and other computer wizards. If you're interested in doing things that have never been done before, talk to us. We'll understand. So, stop by our booth or send your resume to The Boeing Company, P.O. 3707, M/S 6H-RC,NWIA96, Seattle, WA 98124 Fax number (206) 965-4010. Or complete your resume format on the Boeing home page at http://www.boeing.com.

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SALES

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER - JOB CODE (RSM)

- Source, organize, develop & manage sales force for CPE & network (voice & data)
- BS & 3+ years' exp. exceeding quota in the data environment
- Minimum 2 years' exp. managing data account reps
- Conceptual knowledge of LAN/WAN technology, ability to work with middle-, senior- & executive-level MIS managers & excellent business acumen required

SALES REPRESENTATIVE - JOB CODE (PSI)

- 1-5 years' outside sales exp. to professional service businesses in a telecom or high-tech environment
- BA/BS in Business or related field; Excellent communication skills

TECHNICAL SALES - JOB CODE (BAM/AM)

- 3-5 years' consultative sales exp. in telecom environment
- BS or BA required
- Strong conceptual knowledge of voice, video, data & network technologies

SALES TRAINER - JOB CODE (ST)

- Provide instruction for sales skills, telecommunications technologies, industry & business applications for sales & sales support personnel
- BA or BS in Business or Marketing; 3-5 years' telecommunications sales exp.
- Computer literate; product & data communications knowledge required



MARKETING & MANAGEMENT

MARKETING MANAGER - RETENTION PROGRAMS - JOB CODE (MMRP)

- Design & implement GTE's long distance retention, strategic & tactical programs
- Support Marketing & Sales Dept. expense of \$140 million
- Supervise 4 direct reports
- Customer research/contact & feedback analysis
- 8-10 years' long distance/telephony/competitive market exp. required
- BA/BS required; MBA preferred
- Exp. in database marketing, retention program design, winback programs required

MANAGER COMPETITIVE MARKETING INTELLIGENCE - JOB CODE (MCMI)

- Design & market GTE long distance competitive information process
- Forecast competitive trends
- Support acquisition program for incremental revenue of \$600 million with retention of \$1 billion regional long distance revenue
- Analyze \$85+ billion market with complex customer requirements & intense competitive activity
- Competitive analysis in intensely competitive industry
- BA/BS in Marketing required

SR. MARKETING MANAGERS - DATA, VOICE & NETWORK - JOB CODE (SMM)

- Direct activities of product managers, network design engineers, market research & strategy employees
- Interaction with federal & state regulators, executive-level customers & GTE executives
- BS in Business, EE or Marketing required; MBA preferred

BUSINESS PROCESS EXPERT - JOB CODE (BPE)

- Develop/maintain process mapping & flows covering the life cycle of products or services
- Develop process performance targets
- Exp. in 1 or more business areas such as billing, order entry or customer care
- Requires exceptional documentation skills, product & project management knowledge
- Requirements gathering & multi-department coordination

STAFF MANAGER - VENDOR - JOB CODE (SM/LD)

- Perform vendor evaluation, certification, contract negotiation
- Interact with all levels of management
- EE with an MBA; or BS/BA in Business or Telecommunications
- Sales or account/vendor management exp.
- Data (Frame Relay, SONET, Private Line, ATM), Broadb&r, Wireless, Video, CPE

LONG DISTANCE NETWORK ADMINISTRATORS & MANAGERS - JOB CODE (NA/LD)

- Perform analysis of real-time network outages/incidents & implement policies/procedures for monitoring performance
- Responsible for network planning design architecture, economic network modeling, cost analysis & engineering
- Network maintenance support, network implementation control & tracking & standardization management/configuration
- BS in Telecommunications, Math, CS or Engineering
- 8-10 years' telecom exp. with 3 years in network/traffic management, planning or operations
- Strong technical knowledge in network/traffic management and/or network operations
- Cost study methods & testimony before regulatory agencies

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yber-space with no organizing force to register the identities and locations of the millions of users who bring the Internet to life. A daunting and vital task of this magnitude required a resource with unparalleled expertise and experience in the most complex areas of network technology.

Network Solutions.

Our extensive background in network problem solving, combined with our pioneering work on the Internet's protocol programming, made us the natural choice for this essential role.

By allowing the brightest minds in network technology the freedom to put their vision and talent to the test, Network Solutions has become a pre-eminent authority in our industry. If you're a network professional with the experience, drive and track-record to tackle Internet-size challenges, we urge you to examine our current opportunities.

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER - Dynamic and articulate individual with established ties to the technology community. Must have Internet and Product Development experience as well as UNIX, C, NT, HTML, SUN, HP and MS hardware/software experience.

SENIOR SYSTEM ADMINISTRATORS - Develop and maintain C, C++, PERL and Shell scripts for UNIX system administration. Configure and maintain Sendmail, CISCO routers and SUN servers/workstations. Requires 1+ year SunOS, Solaris 2.X and/or Intel BSD system administration experience as well as knowledge of UNIX network security, Internet routing, DNS and IP networking. Relational database experience (INGRES, Oracle, Informix) and familiarity with TCP/IP and Internet tools (FTP, TELNET, web browsers) desirable.

NETWORK MANAGEMENT ENGINEERS - Provide management, performance, and capacity planning support through the development, deployment, and operation of complex distributed network management and performance systems and tools. Desirable experience includes: UNIX, HP OpenView, SunNet Manager, SunOS, Cshell, C, SynOptics Optivity, Cabletron LANView or Spectrum, Wellfleet Site Manager, Cisco Works, SNMP MIB v1/v2, NIS DNS, TCP/IP, and RMON.

NETWORK MANAGEMENT ARCHITECTS - Design and implement cost effective and efficient network management service solutions and architectures within given client parameters. Must possess working knowledge of network management service areas: Fault, Configuration, Accounting, Performance, Security Management. Should also have experience in any of the following areas: SNMP proxy, HPOV, SunNet Manager, System View AIX, SMS, SNMP v1/v2, RMON I/II, TCP/IP protocol suite, Shared LAN, Fast packet LANs, Frame Relay, Routing Protocols, and UNIX.

IP NETWORK DESIGNERS - Analyze client requirements and recommend, install and configure hardware/software. Design IP networks and migrate existing networks to IP. Knowledge and/or experience in the following areas required: TCP/IP (router protocols, firewalls, numbering), LAN/WANS, RMON, DHCP, BOOTP, C, UNIX Shell Script, PERL, ADP, and Cisco/Bay Networks/Wellfleet Routers.

IP SYSTEMS INTEGRATORS - Analyze client requirements and recommend, install and configure hardware/software. Design, install and operate TCP, DNS, SMTP servers, SMTP gateways to COTS email systems, UNIX system deployment and UNIX system security assessment. Knowledge and/or experience in the following areas required: UNIX, TCP/IP, DHCP, C, UNIX Shell Script, PERL, SMTP, and ADP.

WEBMASTERS - Design and maintain Web pages/servers. May also install and configure Web servers (SUN) and software. Must have experience in the following areas: UNIX and/or Windows NT script development (C Shell, PERL, TCL, etc.); commercial HTTP server software installation and maintenance; UNIX systems

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS - Provide software development and maintenance of C, C++, OOP, OOD, PERL and embedded SQL applications under UNIX as well as TCP/IP client/server networking. Develop TCP/IP services protocol and network security. Must have a minimum of 2-3 years C/UNIX software development expensions. ence as well as knowledge of SunOS, Solans, BSDI UNIX system administration and UNIX network security. Must have knowledge of Internet routing, DNS, and IP networking services as well as familiarity of TCP/IP and Internet tools such as FTP, TELNET and web browsers. Relational database experience (INGRES, Oracle, Informix) desirable.

NETWORK MONITORING PERSONNEL - Will monitor our large-scale network operations. Must be able to work flexible hours. Should have experience in the following areas: UNIX, HP OpenView, SunNet Manger, IBM NetView, NetView/6000, TCP/IP, Windows NT/95, and Mac/PC graphics software (Photoshop, Illustrator, etc.)

Network Solutions is a wholly-owned and operated company of Science Applications International Corporation, the nation's largest employee-owned high technology firm with revenue exceeding \$2 billion. We offer a competitive compensation and benefits package.

Qualified candidates attending the Atlanta Networld+InterOP '96 show may apply for these positions by calling 1-800-638-9759, ext. 823 to schedule an on-site in-person interview.

If unable to attend the show, please send your resume and salary requirements, indicating position of interest, to: Network Solutions, Inc., Dept. NW-IY, 505 Huntmar Park Drive, Herndon, VA 22070; FAX#: (703) 742-4837; email: ivany@netsol.com EOE M/F/D/V.

For additional job opportunities and information, see our home page at http://www.netsol.com or the SAIC home page at http://www.saic.com

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Go to the Careers section on Network World Fusion at the above address. Four past weeks of Networking Careers can be found under Job listing.

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Programmer/Analyst: Design and develop interfaces between financial applications and Cosmos manufacturing application; customize financial and manufacturing applications based on clients' needs; re-design old interfaces for maximum performance. Position requires bachelor's degree in Computer Science or similar major and two years prior experi-ence in this position or as a software engineer. Prior experience must include experience with Sybase SQL Server dalabase and Visual Basic, Power Builder, APT, and DB-Library software, as well as experience interfacing financial applications with manufacturing applications. 40 hrs/wk; 8am-5pm; salary of \$52,000.00/yr. Send resume with Social Security No. to Indiana Dept. of Workforce Development, 10 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204-2277, Attn: Gene R. Replogle. Include ID#3379767 with response. Applicants must be eligible for permanent employment in the United



LAN/WAN Designer

Suffolk BOCES seeks an innovative LAN/WAN Designer to join a technical staff responsible for the design, implementation and maintenance of both Local and Wide Area Networks. Must interface with clients and vendors. Responsibilities include network design, technology planning, and solving chronic technology problems. Strong technical, analytical and communication skills needed. Background in Novell and Microsoft NT network management and Internet connectivity are essential. Candidate must possess Bachelor's degree in telecommunications, computer science or electrical engineering and have seven years experience. Candidate will receive provisional Civil Service appointment and be required to take Network Communication exam when given. Salary \$58,000 with excellent benefits. Resumes by September 27th to Ms. Louise P. Patejdl, Executive Administrator of Personnel, Eastern Suffolk BOCES, 201 Sunrise Highway, Patchogue, NY 11772.

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You will design and implement complex network integration solutions for new and existing customers and provide technical sales support as necessary. This involves analyzing customer needs as well as making product and service recommendations.

To qualify, you must possess exceptional verbal/written communication, negotiation and customer service skills; and the ability to travel ovemight approximately 40% of the time. At least 5 years' experience developing and implementing LAN/WAN solutions is also essential, as is experience in one or more of the following:

- High-speed network products: hubs, routers, Frame Relay and ATMs (Bay Networks, Cisco and/or Digital Network Certification highly desired)
- Windows NT, SMS, MS Exchange, UNIX, HP Openview, Novell and/or Pathworks (Microsoft Certification highly desired)
- In-depth experience designing and implementing Internet services

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ADC Kentrox's innovative line of ISDN/ Frame Relay routers prompt us to seek four highly motivated professionals for our next generation product line.

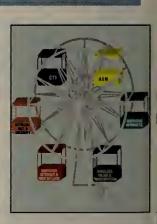
Regional Account Managers: Qualified Sales professionals will have 2 to 3 years direct technical sales to ISPs, carrier and end-user markets. Successful candidates will have intimate understanding of the Internet; knowledge of routers, ISDN, Frame Relay, TCP/IP, IPX and xDSL. Three positions available: California, Chicago and New York. Reference Job #830.

Senior Product Manager: Qualified candidates will have a degree in Business, Marketing or Engineering with a minimum of 5 years relevant product management experience within data or telecommunications. Responsibilities include: forecasting, customer presentations & other life cycle product management. Reference Job #803.

Please send your resume including salary history to: ADC Kentrox, P.O. Box 10704, Portland, OR 97296-0704 or e-mail to: resume@kentrox.com. The company is committed to providing a drug-free work environment. Employment offers are contingent upon successful completion of a physical and drug screening. An Equal Opportunity Employer.



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U.S. Robotics intends to make the metaphor of a Global Community a reality. We are a billion-dollar company and the leading provider of end-to-end access solutions, from shirt pockets, laptops and desktops to corporate data centers. Recognized worldwide for our modems, we supply the systems that Internet service providers, online services and corporate data centers use to manage their remote access traffic. These accomplishments are only the beginning of our plan to revolutionize the way people and businesses communicate.

Global Blueprint: Success

The Network Systems Division serves Internet service providers, online services, corporations, institutions and regional Bell operating companies. We provide remote or mobile users with seamless access to information by connecting them to LANs and WANs. We seek world-class professionals who want to explore a new universe of career opportunity with our Chicago-based organization.

Software Test Engineers: Your BSEE or BSCS and 3-6+ years of networking experience are critical in this position where you will be developing and creating test platforms for product regression/stress testing. Knowledge of communication and routing products, UNIX systems and C/C++ experience essential. (Job Code: DQTE)

IP Router Development Engineers: Experience with software development and implementation on IP routers required. A MSCS or equivalent and 1-10+ years of industry experience essential. Technical competence with TCP/IP and routing protocols a must. (Job Code: IP)

ASIC Hardware Engineers: 10+ years proven track record in development of rack-based embedded systems required. Must have 4+ years of digital logic design for microprocessor-based cards, 2+ years with EPDL, Altera, Xilinx, PAL, memory and peripheral design experience. A background in high performance systems a must. (Job Code: EHE)

Senior Embedded Hardware Engineers -

Processor Core Design: Consists of: high speed bus design (up to 66 MHz), L2 cache and high speed system memory. Design experience with these processors desirable: Pentium-Pro processor and related chip set, PC peripheral components and PCI local bus design. Experience with Digital Access Interface, PLD and FPGA devices required. Altera and Xilinx devices, VHDL, Synopsis tool set, and Viewlogic a plus. (Job Code: SEHE)

Senior Software Engineers - Packet Network Technology: The senior engineer with 7+ years experience developing X.25, Frame Relay or ATM products is right for this position by utilizing network access technologies. Experience with embedded, real-time "C" analysis and implementation a must. A background in a WAN hub environment essential. (Job Code: SSEP)

Wireless/Cellular Software Engineers: The software product developer with two or more years experience in tele/data communications is right for this position. Experience with cellular and/or wireless communications essential. C++ and OOD a plus. (Job Code: WCSE)

Senior Software Developers: Work with a development group providing UNIX-based systems for testing communication hubs. Solid knowledge of UNIX tools, C programming, interprocess communication and I/O required. LAN/WAN knowledge and project leadership experience necessary. (Job Code: SSD)

T1/E1 Software Developers: Your background with 2 or more years experience in embedded system development in a communications environment essential. Experience with VRTX is helpful. (Job Code: TI/E1)

DSP Engineers: Your experience writing DSP software for signal applications essential. Modem development, voice compression and video processing experience desired. BSEE required, MSEE preferred. (Job Code: DSP)

Multimedia Systems Manager: Manage the development of embedded software for LAN, dial-up voice and video systems. Embedded software development experience and knowledge of "C" programming and real-time operating systems essential. Requires a BSEE/CS or related field and 10+ years industry experience. (Job Code: MSM)

Senior Software Engineers - X.75: Develop protocols in X.75 and embedded systems programming. Experience in ISDN or X.25 helpful. BSCS required, MSCS helpful. 5+ years experience and "C" programming skills essential. A background in IP router product development and full product life-cycle a must. (Job Code: SSE-X75)

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Locations:

A global company, USR is headquartered in Skokie, Illinois, with offices and opportunities in Westborough, Massachusetts; Salt Lake City, Utah; Los Altos, California; Vienna, Virginia; Grass Valley, California; Milan, Italy; Munich, Germany; Dublin, Ireland; and subsidiaries in Lille, France and near London, Paris and other European cities.



Thanks to computers, companies have more information about their business than ever. But they often seem to know less about what customers really want. All that data, in all those computers, is hard to access. And hard to use for making decisions. What's needed are ways to help companies manage information as a business asset that contributes to success. Unisys provides those kinds of solutions. A Fortune 100 industry leader, we currently have **national opportunities** available for forward-thinking, technical professionals ready to move ahead with a leader.

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We seek professionals with proven consulting experience specific to one or more of the following: network management services; LANWAN architecture & implementation; desktop services; web site integration; mobile computing implementation; voice network implementation; multimedia network integration. Some positions require a CNE with Windows NT-Migration experience.

Individuals with broad-based experience, having led and managed through all phases including project proposals, team building, project management, skills acquisition, design and implementation, will thrive in this environment.

Network Design Consultant

In this pre-sales assignment, you will analyze client network requirements and provide network solutions that operate across requirements and provide network solutions that operate across multiple platforms. A minimum of 3 years experience in any combination of the following: LAN/WAN/MAN network systems; planning, design, evaluation & selection of operating systems/ protocol suites; best of breed, multivendor network products (routers, bridges, concentrators, hubs & NICs); TCP/IP, IPX/SPX, Appletalk in a distributed client/server environment; ATM, ISDN, X.25, FDDI, Ethernet, Token Ring, Frame Relay; interoperability testing: professional networking certification. testing; professional networking certification.

Network Implementation Support Engineers

Use your network hardware/software expertise to enable individuals to install various network configurations. Requires experience in the following areas: implementation of diverse network configurations; network products such as routers, hubs & Novell; CNE certification; trained on Wellfleet & Cisco routers; synoptics hubs knowledge; client interaction on all phases of network implementation; project management.

Network Center Operations

(Blue Bell, PA Opportunities)
Your 3-5 years experience should include routers and hubs, as well as training and utilizing network management tools, TCP/IP, LAN technologies, WAN technologies, routing protocols. Prior experience in a network operations center preferred

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Project Leader candidates should have hands-on experience implementing the above technologies, complemented by troubleshooting skills with diagnostic tools such as a protocol analyzer.

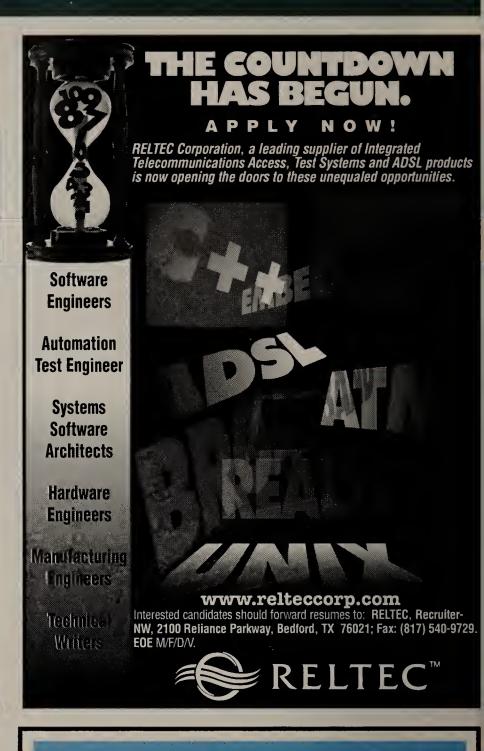
> So, bring your resume and join us at InterOp '96 at our Hospitality Room:

> Tuesday Sept. 17, Zurich Room (Conference Level, Meeting Cluster #3)

& Thursday Sept. 19, Riviera Room (Garden Level, Meeting Cluster #5), 5PM-8PM Both Days, Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel.

If unable to make it to Networld+InterOp '96, FAX your resume to National Recruiting Manager at (503) 425-3390; or e-mail: ameeker@uswest.com. For more information about these and other data networking opportunities, see us on the web: http://www.careermosaic.com/cm/uswest/home.html An equal opportunity employer.

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- Internet Infrastructure Engineering Manager
- Business Development Manager
- Marcom Writer,
 ManageWise
- Sr. Technical Writer, ManageWise
- Project Development Manager, ManageWise
- Software Test Engineers, NetWare Utilities



- Product Marketing Manager, Market Segment-PC LAN
- Product Marketing Engineer, Directory Services
- Product Marketing Engineer, Internet Infrastructure
- Software Developers, Internet Commerce
- Technical Writers
- Editors
- Product Marketing, Internet Commerce

As a global organization, Novell offers you a world of career opportunities. To learn more, connect to **www.novell.com**; or e-mail your resume in ASCII format, **INDICATING JOB CODE CANETJM19**, to: **resume@novell.com**; fax 1-800-688-9931; or mail to: Novell, Inc., Human Resources, 1555 N. Technology Way, Orem, UT 84057.

Novell is an equal opportunity employer and as such encourages diversity, creativity, and fosters an environment where all people are rewarded for their talents and contributions.



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ONE FOCUS: providing businesses in more than 175 countries with the ultimate networking solution. One choice: the organization with a reputation for effectively providing business information and network services to major corporations. Of course, we're talking about the Network Services Division of CompuServe.

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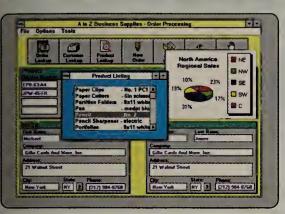
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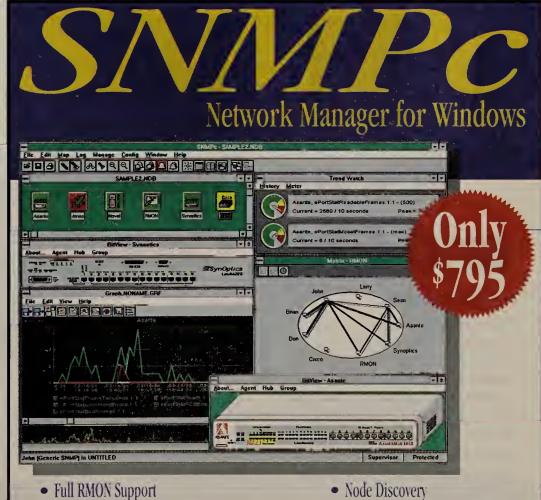
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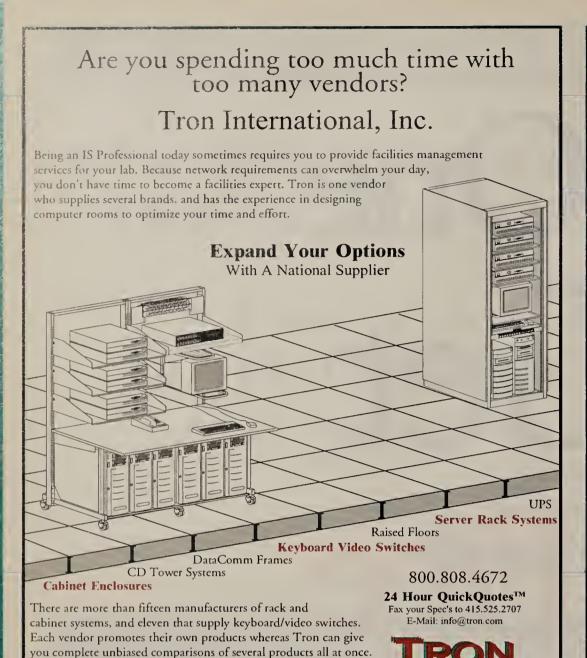
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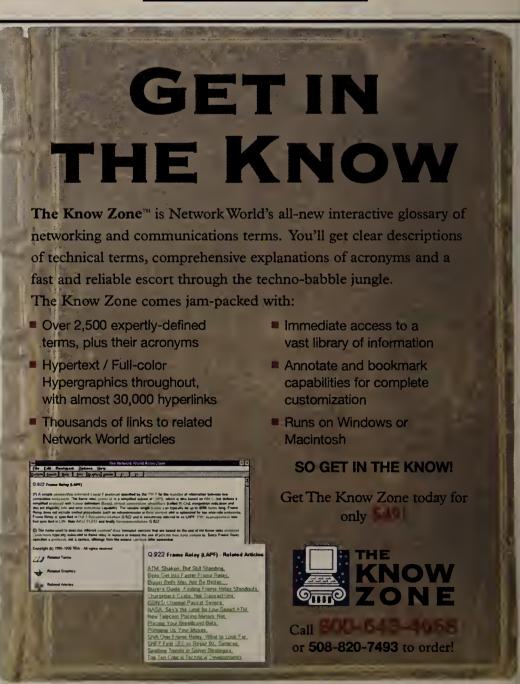


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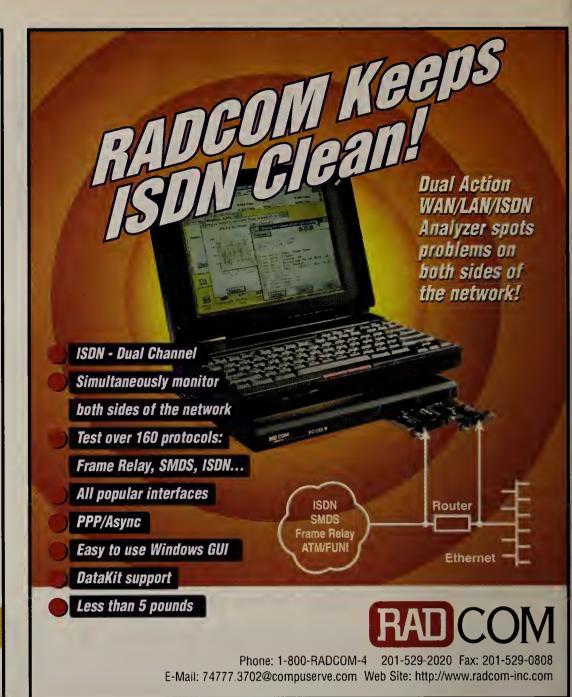
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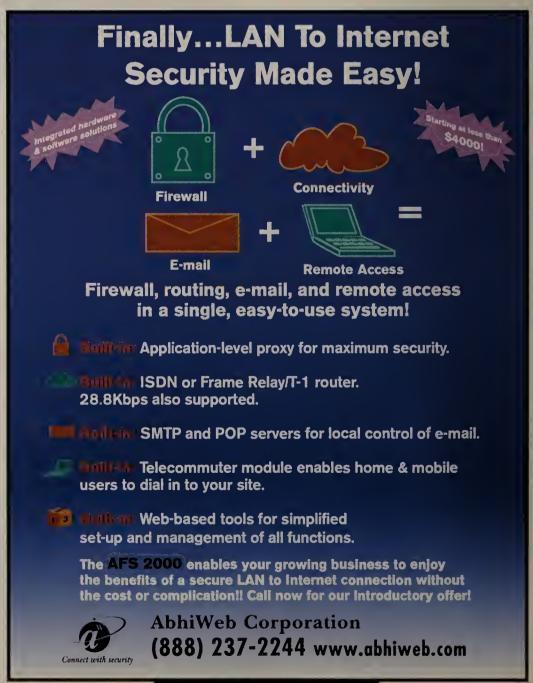
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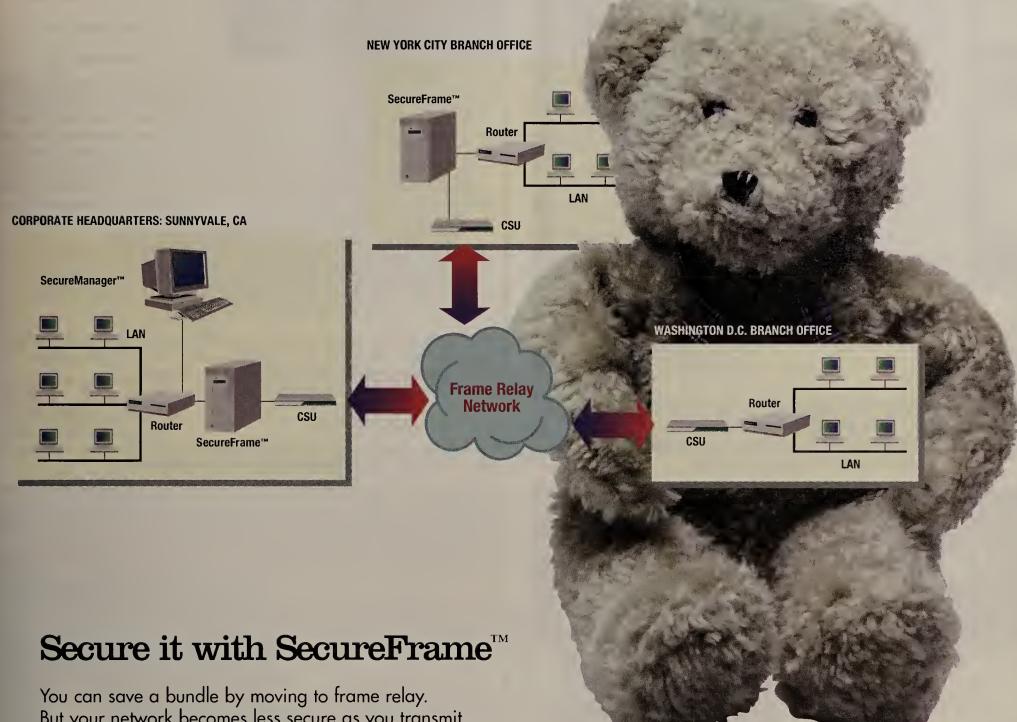
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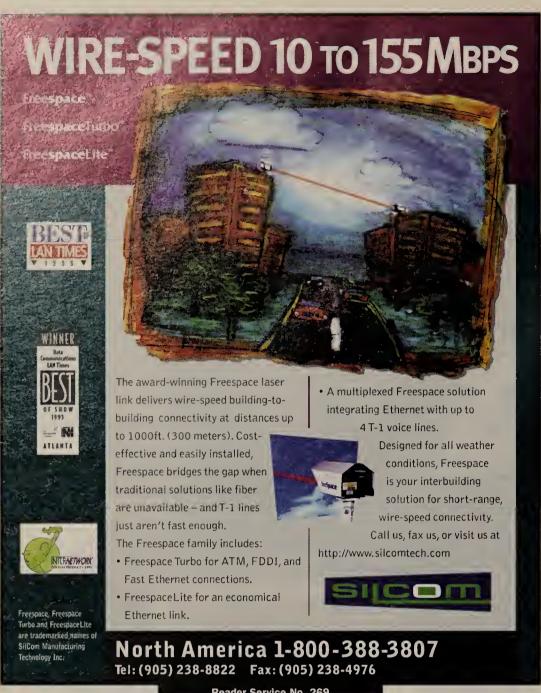
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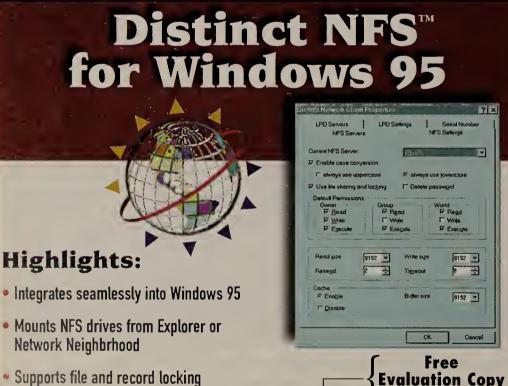
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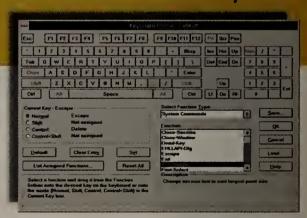
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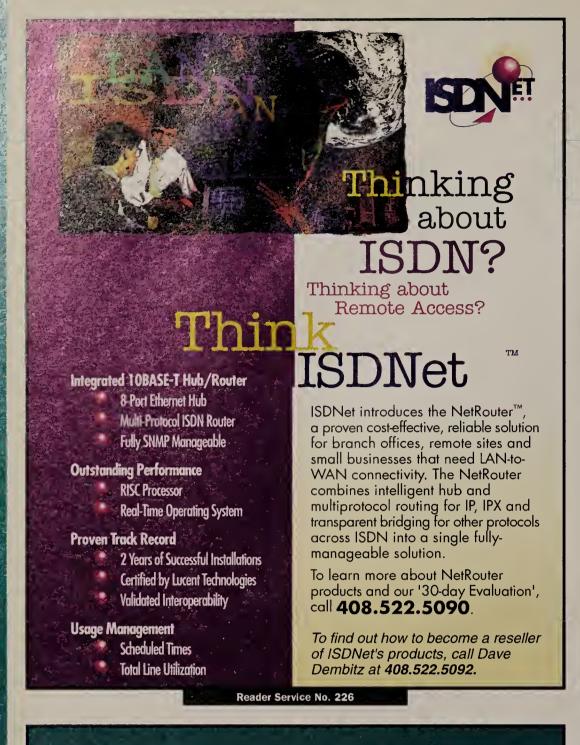
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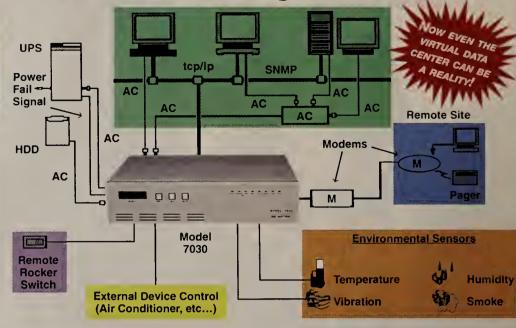
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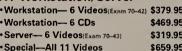




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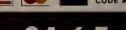
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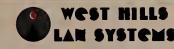
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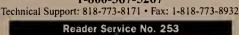








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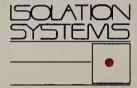


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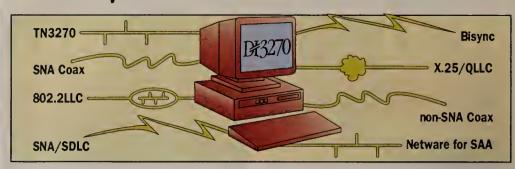




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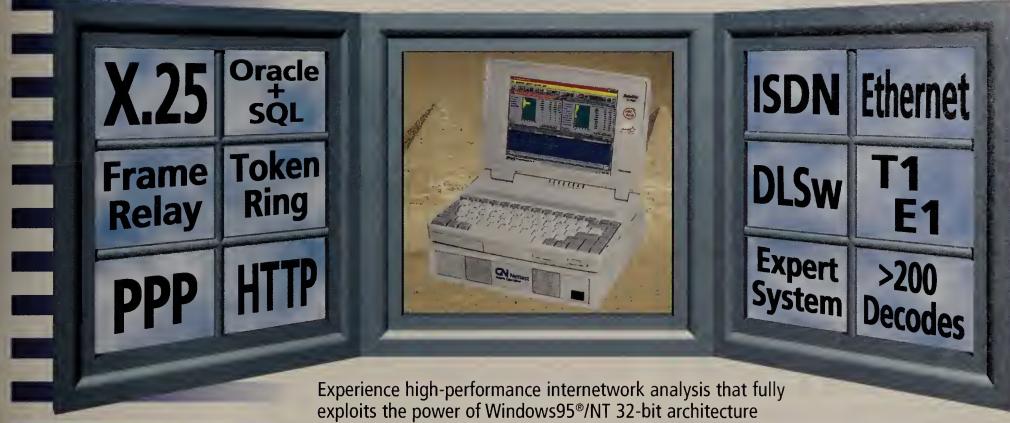
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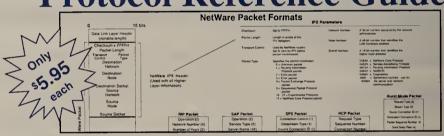
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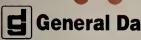
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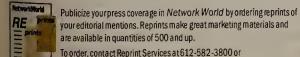
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<u> </u>		EDITORIALI	NDEX		
3Com	1.6	GigaLabs	10	PeopleSoft	54
A	1,0	Global One		Philips 8usiness Electronics	
ADC Kentrox	21	GTE		Praxis	
Adobe		Н		PSINet	
AGIS		Hamilton Hallmark	27	Q	
America Online		Hayes		Quadritek	30
Ameritech		Hi/fn		Qualcomm	
Ancor		HP		R	
ANS		1	,	Racal-Datacom	21
AT&T33.3	9.159	I8M 1,6,10,16	6.21.46.56.73	RAScom	21
AT&T Wireless Services	39	ICG Communications		Red Pepper	54
AT&T-Unisource Services		ICS		Rockwell	
Avidia		IRE		S	
В		Intel		Sanga	6
Bay6,	.10.27	InterAccess		SAP AG	
88N Planet.		Interpose		S8C Communications	
8ell Atlantic	118	InterVoice	73	Seagate	
8ellSouth	118	ISOTRO	30	Shiva	
8est Internet		К		Siemens AG	
Boca Research		Kaspia	30	Silicon Graphics	
8roadVision		L		SMC	
С		LCI International	37	Sprint	
CA	6	Learning Tree International		Stanford Telecommunications	
Cabletron	27	Lotus 3		Strategic Research	
Cascade		Lucent		SunSoft	
Cisco		M	,,,	Sybase	
Compag		McAfee	29.43	Symantec	
Concert		MCI		T	
CyberCash		MFS		Telco Systems	27
CyberGuard		Microsoft6, 14, 41, 43, 48, 5		Tellabs Operations	
Cylink		N		Telstra	
D		NCR	41	Trend Micro	
Data8eam	53	Netcom On-Line	1,27,73	U	
Dell	41	Netscape	6.56.73	U.S. Robotics	14.21
DFW Internet Services	127	Network Systems		US WEST	33.118
DIGEX	1	Newbridge		UUNET	
Digital	6,41	Northern Telecom	33	V	
E		Novell	1,53,113	Verity	54
EMI Communications	37	NYNEX	118	Versit	56
Enigma	53	0		VideoServer	53
F		ODI	54	Visual	27.37
First Union	73	ODS	41	W	
FlowPoint	21	Open Market	16	Whistle	73
Fluke		P		X	
FORE1		Pacific 8ell	118	Xylan	6
G		PairGain Technologies		ATM equipment 8uyer's Guide	
GDC	10	PC DOCS		begins on Page 92.	

ADVERTISER INDEX

Advertiser	Reader Service#	Page#	James River Group
ACC			*Kingston
AbhiWeb Corp			Know Zone, The24
ACT Inc			Learnkey Inc
ADC Kentrox			Linear Switch Corp
Adtran		, ,	Matrox Electronic Systems
Alcatel Data Networks			MaxNET
AMP			Memotec Communications
Ascend			Mier Communications
Ascom Timeplex			Milkyway
Astrocom			N8ase
AT&T Comvault Systems			Net Suite
Azure Technologies	224	153	Net2NetCorp28
8ay Networks			Network Storage Solutions
8ay Networks			Newbridge
8order Networks			*Norlight
Cabletron			Nortel
Canon USA			Novell
Carrier Access Corp			ODS.
Cascade Communications			OpenConnect Systems
Castle Rock Computing			*Pac 8ell
Cellware			PairGainTechnologies
Chatcom Inc			Penril Datacom
Comdex			QMS
Compaq			RAD Data
Computer Associates	78	36-37	RADCOM30
Compuware Corp	50	65	Shiva
Corning	1	42 43	SilCom Manufacturing
Cybex Computer Products Corp			Softbank Communications
Cylink Corp	250	147	Source Comm Corp
D-Link			Sprint
Data Interface Systems Corp	238	152	Standard Microsystems
Dell		18-19	TCG
Digex			Texas ISA23
Digital Equipment Co			The Tolly Group.
Distinct Corp			TODD Enterprises Inc
Dynatech			Transition Networks
Eastern Research			Triticom
EMI Communications			Tron International
Emulex Corp			Unisys Corp.
Ergotron			UUNET
FastComm Communications			Verilink Corp
Fore Systems			Visual Networks
Frontier Technologies			West Hills LAN Systems. 25
Frustum Group Inc, The	257	141	Wright Line
General Datacom			Xylan
General Siginal Networks			*
Great Lakes Case & Cabinet Co			Network World Fusion - www.mwfusion.com
Hewlett Packard			Advertiser
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ISDINGUITO		150	publication does not ensure a liability for any

262.

152

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146

.67

144

150

144

.28

.39

62-63

159

.49

. 141

.152

.26

41

.52

.48

.70

..69

.146

74-75

.148

.112

....9

94-95

150

126

.152

..46

30

.. 149

.... 144,148,152

Nortel

Novell

Sprint

116-117

11,13,15,34-35

3Com

Continued from page 1

World+Interop 96 here, include the following:

- Four Gigabit Ethernet backbone switches
- Five ATM OC-12 (622M bit/sec) backbone switches
- Five Fast Ethernet-to-Gigabit Ethernet edge switches
- Three Fast Ethernet-to-ATM OC-12 edge switches

3Com's goal is to treat Gigabit Ethernet and ATM technologies the same by developing both

product lines in tandem, one analyst said.

"If customers have started down the ATM path, 3Com's giving them plenty of bandwidth," said John McConnell, president of McConnell Consulting, Inc. in Boulder, Colo. "And if they haven't decided, 3Com's giving them high-speed options with a full Gigabit Ethernet product line.'

For customers that require quality of service, seamless LAN/WAN integration and more bandwidth today, 3Com recommends ATM. But 3Com points users who have a lot of legacy applications and can wait for more bandwidth toward Gigabit Ethernet.

The first members of 3Com's Gigabit Ethernet product family include Fast Ethernet-to Gigabit Ethernet edge switches as well as pure 1G bit/sec Ethernet data center switches. Likewise, 3Com will offer Fast Ethernet-to-ATM switches as well as pure 622M bit/sec ATM chassis for its ATM customers (see graphic). In addition, 3Com will roll out PCIbased Gigabit Ethernet and ATM network interface cards (NIC).

3Com's Gigabit Ethernet prices will not exceed \$2,500 per port, according to Ron Sege, senior vice president at 3Com. Pricing for the 622M bit/sec ATM switches will start at \$3,000 per port.

One 3Com user said he plans to deploy the new ATM switches.

"We just now rolled out FDDI switching in the backbone, which should suffice for the next year or two, but we're also actively looking at OC-12 ATM as a backbone technology," said David Balding, network design engineer at Computer Sciences Corp., an information technology services firm based in Fort Worth, Texas. "We've

the human resources department looking at online resume tracking, and the engineering group is looking at electronic document management for accessing big drawings over the LAN in a client/server environment, so ATM makes sense."

switches to cost about Itching for IP switching \$2,500 perport.

3Com's Sege says he

expects the company's

"We're now telling

Gigabit Ethernet

As part of 3Com's agnostic approach to networking, the company this week will jump on the IP switch-

ing bandwagon when it unveils software for its LAN switches. Called Fast IP, the enhancement boosts net performance by reducing latency caused by routing decisions.

Fast IP will be rolled out in two stages over the next six to 18 months. In Phase 1, Fast IP will implement a cut-through routing technique to reduce network response time and improve overall performance, Sege said.

The key to Phase 2 is end-toend switching, not routing. In

> this stage, Fast IP will tap into the endstation, using 3Com's intelligent adapter cards, to further eliminate router processing and overhead.

> 3Com's Fast IP could best competitor Ipsilon Networks, Inc.'s IP switching approach, McConnell said.

"Ipsilon requires you to go through a bunch of switch hops before getting to the

server, and then you have to go all the way back through the network to set up the flow, whereas 3Com is talking about having the NIC figure out the setup without all this back-and-forth stuff," he said.

"So, 3Com's approach may cut down the latency, and it may have some implications on scaling for large networks," he said.

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Take your pick

3Com has big plans for both Gigabit Ethernet and ATM switches Gigabit Ethernet road map

Fast Ethernet-to-Gigabit Ethernet edge switches

40-port rast Eulemey 12-port digabit Eulemet Chassis	FIISCHAII OF 1
360-port Fast Ethernet/28-port Gigabit Ethernet chassis	Second half
36-port Fast Ethernet/2-port Gigabit Ethernet stackable switch	Second half
36-port Fast Ethernet/3-port Gigabit Ethernet stackable switch	First half of 1

Gigabit Ethernet core switches

16-port Gigabit Ethernet chassis	First half of 1997
30-port Gigabit Ethernet chassis	Second half of 199
4-port Gigabit Ethernet stackable switch	Second half of 199
24-port Gigabit Ethernet stackable switch	First half of 1998
96-port Gigabit Ethernet stackable switch	First half of 1998

ATM road map	
Fast Ethernet-to-ATM OC-12 (622M blt/sec) edge switches	
48-port Fast Ethernet/12-port ATM chassis	First half of 1997
240-port Fast Ethernet/30-port ATM chassis	Second half of 199
36-port Fast Ethernet/2-port ATM stackable switch	Second half of 199
480-port Fast Ethernet/30-port ATM chassis	First half of 1998
56-port Fast Ethernet/7-port ATM stackable switch	First half of 1998
ATM OC-12 core switches	
16-port ATM chassis	First half of 1997

of 1997

of 1997

1998

Second half of 1997 First half of 1998

Phone rules

Continued from page 1

15% to 20% of long-distance costs by knocking off the 3 to 4 cents-per-minute fee on either end of a long-distance switched voice or data connection, Anderson said.

Federal Communications Commission rules now say that in

rations already have meet that

"We're now telling our 200 largest end users that if they don't investigate the option to sign up as a competitive local exchange carrier, they should be taken out and shot," Anderson

He will deliver the idea of enterprise LECs, or ELECs, at an MCI Communications Corp. large customers' meeting next week in Palm Springs, Calif.

Anderson said, on paper, the corporate user would become its own local carrier, providing access to long-distance carriers' networks. To do

While the savings sounds attractive, it does not come without a price, according to Eric Paulak, an analyst with Gartner Group, Inc. The corporate user would have to make legal filings in each state where it wanted to be a LEC, and file tariffs.

state regulations as well as federal regulations?" Paulak said.

"You'd have to offer service over that network to anybody who asked for it. I don't think you want to do that," said Coleen Boothby, a Washington, D.C. attorney specializing in negotiating telecommunications contracts for large users.

And the ELEC could actually

be forced to provide phone service to high-cost areas or expand coverage to places where the company has no network now. "Being a carrier isn't all wine and roses," Boothby said.

Anderson missed the risks. As a practical matter, no one would ask an ELEC for service, and if they did, they would have to pay

whatever rates the carrier set.

The access fees are already at the center of controversy. The FCC wants to do away with them for LECs that are truly in the phone business and own switches. But RBOCs say they could not swallow the loss of \$25 billion per year that would mean.

Eventually, the FCC may close the apparent loophole, but the ELEC move is worth a shot because users who move now may be grandfathered later, he

Alliance

Continued from page 1

32-port ATM chassis

8-port ATM chassis

others. Being a member of the group doesn't mean products from FORE or IBM are imminent, sources said. However, both firms do want to be positioned to tap a market that is rapidly gaining strength.

The Gigabit Ethernet market is expected to approach \$3 billion by the year 2000, according to Dataquest, Inc., a market research firm in San Jose, Calif.

"This announcement means that FORE and IBM have seen the light and that ATM is not, contrary to what both companies have said, the industry cure-all and that they must now go back and cover their tracks," said Anura Guruge, an independent analyst based in New Ipswich, N.H.

Others argued that the companies' move to join the Gigabit Ethernet Alliance comes after a much slower than anticipated market acceptance of ATM. In

addition, industry observers pointed out FORE and IBM could gain a tactical advantage by joining the group, since they will be kept up-to-date on the competing technology.

"At this point in time, any

Getting behind Gigabit Ethernet

A sampling of Gigabit Ethernet **Alliance members**

- ▶ 3Com Bay
- ▶ Ipsilon Madge ▶ NBase
- Cabletron Cisco
- ▶ Packet Engines Compaq Prominet
- ▶ HP
- XLNT Designs
- ▶ Intel
- Xylan

major vendor that doesn't look to the Gigabit Ethernet market is overlooking a tremendous opportunity," said Fred McClimans, president of Current Analysis, Inc., a market analysis firm in Ashburn, Va. "We are at the point here in the industry where single-technology vendors do not survive very long."

McClimans said FORE's membership in the Gigabit Ethernet Alliance does not undermine the company's ATM focus (see story, page 12).

"FORE was started on an ATM principal, and they went after that core ATM market very aggressively. And they continue to do extremely well," McClimans said. "I see this as a maturing of FORE that started with the acquisition of [Applied Network Technologies, Inc.] and then the acquisition of Alantec Corp. FORE moved into other technologies and leveraged their ATM experience and ATM base throughout the network."

This is also a smart move for IBM, said Nick Lippus, president of Strategic Networks Consulting, Inc. in Rockland, Mass.

"No question that IBM has a lot of money tied up in ATM, but they can't afford to get so tied up in one technology that they can't develop others," he

order to avoid access fees, LECs must own their own phone switches. PBXs that most corporequirement.

our 200 largest end users that if they don't investigate the option to sign up as $a\ competitive\ local$ exchange carrier, they should be taken

out and shot." so, they would buy individual network elements from the RBOCs but not access to the RBOC network as a whole, hence no access fee.

"How many companies are going to want to be local exchange carriers and fall under

AT&T alliance to offer global ATM

By David Rohde

Washington, D.C.

AT&T-Unisource Services is gunning to be the first of the three global network alliances involving big U.S. carriers to launch an international ATM service.

The alliance plans to begin by mid-1997 a controlled introduction of an ATM service that would enable companies to link high-speed networks in the U.S. and several European countries, AT&T officials confirmed last week.

Such a high-end service is not likely to win lots of customers early on, and AT&T officials harbor no illusions about capturing big market share simply by being the first with the service.

But the service could meet a real need among corporations facing growing traffic demands on their international nets, said David Beering, a senior telecom staff analyst at worldwide oil and chemicals company Amoco Corp.

Amoco is immersed in a project to merge multiple domestic networks into a single ATM net. Under Beering's leadership, the petroleum industry has built a highly publicized ATM network that has served as a test bed for high-speed technologies.

Who's who in global nets

The three major global alliances:		
Aliiance	Owners	
AT&T-Unisource Services	AT&T, PTTs of Netherlands, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden	
Concert	MCI, British Telecom	
Global One	Sprint, France Telecom, Germany's Deutsche Telekom	

"Whether commercial global ATM services are a big deal depends simply on the economics" and the network's reach, Beering said. "If it's cheaper per bit, it's worth it."

Beering added that an ATM service between the U.S. and Unisource countries alone would not cut it for his company. "Global means they can get me to Guam or anywhere else I have operations," he said.

Dan Dzamba, AT&T's international packet services director, said the company is seeing more and more companies supporting multimedia applications internationally, and some of these users are exploring moving international Internet r intranet traffic over ATM.

In fact, some of the first customers for global ATM service will likely be Internet service providers, which are "aggregating a tremendous number of traffic types,' Dzamba said.

For AT&T, the launch of a global ATM service could be something of a role-reversal, since it originally ceded the initiative in U.S. commercial ATM service to Sprint Corp. and what is now LDDS WorldCom in the early 1990s.

A spokeswoman for the MCI Commu-

nications Corp.-backed Concert global alliance said the company plans to offer global ATM at some point but has no specific timetable.

A spokeswoman for the Sprint Corp.backed Global One alliance would only say that the company has announced no

such service.

AT&T's global ATM plans were revealed earlier this month at a meeting of U.S. customers of Swiss Telecom, one of four European carriers that are part owners of AT&T-Unisource Services.

A pan-European ATM pilot is already under way, said Joseph Nancoz, Swiss Telecom's vice president of multinational corporate accounts. When the trans-Atlantic global ATM service is launched, it will initiall accommodate data applications, but not voice.

AT&T did not say whether its World-Partners Alliance, a superset of its Unisource venture that provides telecommunications services to many other countries, will soon participate in the global ATM offering.

Senior Editor Joanie Wexler contributed to this story.

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Novell

Continued from page 1

With Novell having been a leader in the network software market for so long, what is it like to work for the company now that it is on the defensive?

We still are the market leader; I want to make sure you have that clear because it seems as if people have forgotten that. By a long shot. We sold 800,000 servers last year, and we will sell a million servers this year.

Defensive is the right word, though. That happens when a company goes through some of the things that we did, i.e. the WordPerfect acquisition/divestiture and all of the other stops and starts.

Your messages to the marketplace are perceived as passive, and you become quiet and dark. What happens is people in the press start to print and the print turns into bad news. Employees start to read the bad news and believe it.

The key is: How do you get the employees to feel the passion again?

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What are your plans to stop Novell's hemorrhaging of executives?

First of all, there isn't a hemorrhaging of people leaving Novell. With a lot of the officials that have left the company, there were mutual partings that have taken place.

tomers and resellers describe you as a very competitive person. What is going to be your approach to the competition Microsoft poses?

Competing with Microsoft is obviously something that we have to do. What I want to do is make sure that the customer



But what happens when people leave the company to either found their own companies or go to start-ups, the one thing they always bring with them is an extension of the company they just came from. So, as corny as this is going to sound, when employees leave your company to go do something that may be more exciting to them, it oftentimes is beneficial to you as a company because what you have just done is expanded your extended family out into the marketplace.

Some of Novell's biggest cus-

has what it needs from both companies.

Novell has always represented the Switzerland type of approach in the marketplace. If part of Novell overlaps with Microsoft, then, yeah, we are going to compete with them. Competition in the marketplace is not healthy if it does become adversarial, which it did for a while between the two companies. The one that loses in that situation is the customer.

Have you recently met or do you have any plans to meet personally with Bill Gates as former Novell CEO and President Robert Frankenberg did?

I imagine that we will eventually do that. It is not the No. 1 priority on my list right now, but I think that would be in order.

What is your position on Microsoft's business practices as brought up by Netscape?

I have no comment on that.

What do you have to say about the acquisition/merger rumors that are circulating as a result of the internal and overall perception problem Novell has?

The fundamental answer to that is simple. We are positioning the company as a total standalone. We are still building infrastructure outside of the U.S. We are still recruiting employees inside the company. We have got huge development projects going on. We are looking for a new CEO. Those are not things that you do if you are trying to window-dress the company for a sale.

Going forward, what is your overall vision for Novell?

Vision is a dangerous word because the vision of the company is still the same as the one that Bob [Frankenberg] put in place and it still works very well. That is, allowing Novell and its partners to create a network where people communicate and collaborate anytime, anywhere, with anyone. So that high-level vision stays.

The direction of the company, as we migrate from LANs to WANs to the intranet, is becoming a major player in the intranet space, which we see is the evolution of the corporate network.

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How are you going to reach that point, and how will you convince customers that you are moving that way?

How we are doing it from a product perspective is breaking the products up into three different categories. The first is server operating systems as we migrate from NetWare as a platform and move it into the intranet space.

In addition to that, we are distributing the services of our products, such as directory, security and management, onto other server operating systems such as NT, Unix and others.

Then another piece of our strategy moves us into what the user sees, hence the need for products like GroupWise. These products give the user an intuitive interface, a way to access the network for very specific tasks.

What do you feel in your experience of vice president of sales qualifies you to carry out this new company direction toward the intranet and help the company deal with its perception problem?

There are two major areas. The first is putting the customer at the forefront of the equation. I am talking about both in our marketing efforts and our prod-



uct development efforts. We really have to understand what the customer needs in order for this to be successful. Just putting technology in the market; it just doesn't work.

Because I come from the customer environment, if you will, that is one of the most important things that I bring to the company.

The other part of it is the ability to lead, the ability to create leadership and make Novell become passionate again about being the greatest company in the networking space.

What is your prediction of where Novell will be in a year's time?

We will have maintained our market share in the server operating system business. We will have created enough mind share that people will recognize us as an intranet player — primarily in the corporate intranet space.

GroupWise will have evolved into the No. 2 position in the marketplace — probably second to Lotus Notes. And we will have shipped some technology that people will say, "God, I didn't realize that Novell was that good."

The directory will be on its way to becoming the meta-directory in the industry due to some of the strategy that we are moving on in that arena. And people will be asking themselves why they didn't buy our stock when it was at 10 1/2.

Exchange

Continued from page 6

the Web Connector, which enabled browser access but performed an additional translation step.

Another feature is a Lotus cc:Mail Connector for exchanging data and messages between cc:Mail and Exchange.

Version 4.5 will also make Exchange easier to deployacross several networked sites, something that struck a chord with customers.

"Doing things like moving mailboxes between sites can involve hours of administration time [with Exchange 4.0]," said Les Brown, system analyst at Shell Services Co. in Houston, which is migrating about 16,000 users to Exchange. The company had planned to set up as many as 30 Exchange sites on its network, but has scaled that back to six due to limitations in Version 4.0.

Version 4.5 should eliminate the need to run a fairly centralized architecture by allowing administrators to create subsites, customers said. This permits users at different physical sites to be grouped together for administrative purposes.

Ned Studt, a systems administrator at the Kentucky Department of Education, said Version 4.5's feature set is impressive.

"We didn't expect to see some of this stuff for two years," he said.

Studt and colleague Kirk Reeyes, who will eventually support some 200,000 users on an Exchange network, will have to wait until 1997 for the improved diagnostic tools and expanded reports they crave.

Improving the enterprise readiness of Exchange filled the minds of many of the more than 2,000 attendees that packed the Exchange lovefest.

Since Exchange shipped in April, there have been rumblings that the messaging package is not being rolled out for mass deployments, possibly due to bugs and a lack of scalability features.

Still, many companies appear to be embracing Exchange. A recent International Data Group report puts the number of Exchange users at about 750,000.

However, it is tough to find sites running more than a few thousand seats. ■

ATM

Contined from page 1

research firm in Dedham, Mass. "This brings ATM down to just about the same price as switched Ethernet, which now makes ATM a viable choice for the desktop.'

One customer, who has already

deployed one of the switches in his network, agreed.

"We're using the Avidia box to provide 25M bit/sec ATM links to the desktop for our engineers,' said Andy Deltuvia, vice president of network engineering at LANcomp, lnc., a network product ven- will bring ATM to the dor in Piscataway, N.J. desktop. "Not only was the



Avidia's Juliano said his company's \$199per-port ATM switch

"We're using the

price per port very attractive, but it was relatively painless to set up and configure."

Auspicious start

Avidia — a venture-funded company made up of former officials from FORE, General DataComm, Inc., 3Com Corp. and Digital Equipment Corp. — is focused on bringing ATM connections to PCs and servers, but will avoid the ATM backbone market, explained Mark Juli-

ano, vice chairman at Avidia and formerly vice president of marketing

FORE. "This is ATM for the rest of us," Juliano said. "In fact, at about \$2,300 fully loaded, the entire ATM switch will cost less than the PC. Heck, I can sell you two switches and a few NIC cards \$5,000, for which is proba-

Avidia box to provide 25M bit/sec ATM links to the desktop for our engineers. Not only was the price per port attractive, but it was relatively painless to set up and configure," Deltuvia said.

bly the limit on your credit card."

Juliano said his company is able to keep its costs down by using an inexpensive chip from TranSwitch Corp., as well as using off-the-shelf products such as Intel Corp. processors and a PC-based bus.

Product specifics

Avidia's product family includes the ACX-100 workgroup switch, which provides 12 25M bit/sec ATM ports and one 155M bit/sec interface for a server or backbone link. The switch can act as a stand-alone device or as a module that plugs into Avidia's other switch chassis.

Customers can stick the ACX-100 into the larger ACX-300 chassis to create a department-level device. The three-slot box supports as many as 36 25M bit/sec ATM ports and three 155M bit/sec interfaces. Both the 100 and 300 models have a switching capacity of 1G bit/sec.

For department-level concentration,

Avidia offers the ACX-1200, which boasts a switching capacity of 3G bit/sec. The switch supports as many as 120 25M bit/sec ATM ports and as many as 10 155M bit/sec ATM links.

In addition, the 1200 offers a variety of WAN interfaces, including T-1/E-1, ISDN and frame relay.

Deltuvia said he likes having a WAN interface option on the box. "Using frame relay, I can cost-effectively scale

ATM out to the wide area," he said. "And that may eliminate the need for a router at that endpoint."

In addition, the company is introducing the Avidia Internet Management System (AIMS), which allows customers to manage the switches from a Web browser.

The ACX family will begin shipping in October, and the WAN access interfaces will be available by year-end.

OAvidia: (203) 265-5612.

PROFILE: AVIDIA SYSTEMS

Headquarters: Wallingford, Conn.

Founded: 1995

Key products: Workgroup ATM switches

and remote office connectivity products

Management team: Officials formerly with FORE,

General DataComm, 3Com and Digital, TranSwitch and ITT



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'A thought that makes me hazy, is it me or are others crazy?' *

just got off the phone with my esteemed editor, and what a stimulating conversation! What a keen mind he has. And his wit! Incisive and insightful. (OK, Gibbs, cut it out. We'll keep you on for another year. Ed.)

My editor and I were discussing one of the Internet mail lists I run (more on that later). Out of our incredibly intellectual exchange (we cracked a lot of jokes) came the following thought: The Internet is a web of backbones, both physical and logical.

The physical backbones are the big, fat data pipes belonging to AT&T, MCI, Sprint, ANS and so on. Of more interest from a philosophical viewpoint are the logical ones.

These logical backbones are defined by what are effectively permanent datastreams that serve different interests and functions.

For example, E-mail transactions are a crucial Internet backbone. I remember reading somewhere that E-mail consumes about 6% of the Internet's bandwidth. That's an interesting figure when you consider that the slice of total Internet bandwidth used by MUDs, MOOs, MUSHes and MUCKs is estimated to be about 10%!

<digression> MUDs, MOOs, MUSHes and MUCKs stand for Multi-User Dungeons and Dragons, MUD Object-Orienteds (yes, I did notice that doesn't read right, but this is technology, my friend) and Multi-User Shared Hallucinations. MUCK apparently is not an acronym — it just amused some dweeb somewhere to call their MUD a MUCK, and it stuck. That's the 'Net for you. If you want to find out more about this strange world, check out "Secrets of the MUD Wizards" by Andrew Busey, published by SAMS.net.

And if you want to try a Web-based MOO, check out WaxMOO at http://bug.village.virginia.edu/.WaxMOO is based on the 1991 film Wax or the Discovery of Television Among the Bees by David Blair. WaxMOO is simultaneously a truly weird virtual place and a work of art.</digressiou>

What are some of the other backbones? Well, there's good ol' Usenet, home of the newsgroups, and then The Internet is a web of physical and logical backbones.

there's the World-Wide Web and Gopher.

Of course, you might also consider all of the voice-over-'Net products (such as those from VocalTec) to form a backbone of their own, but until these products are interoperable, it's not a real backbone. (C'mon, guys, get with it if you want a real business.)

On top of all that, there are metabackbones. Here I'm thinking of the topics people communicate about, such as sex. This is a huge backbone and one that wields rather greater economic power than one might think.

For example, there's a large video pornography broadcast industry that uses a popular Internet videoconferencing tool. These services must be pretty popular if you consider how many ads

for them you now see in magazines.

Other, rather more tasteful, meta-backbones

include all of the computer topics mediated by newsgroups and Web sites and, the thing that actually got me thinking about this in the first place, humor.

Humor on the Internet is a great resource (some of my best ad-libs have come from the 'Net) and one of the most profound meta-backbones that I know of.

Exchanging jokes gives people an opportunity to get connected and keep in contact. For example, my own joke mailing list, JokeServ, keeps me in touch with about 150 friends from all over the world.

Perhaps we'll look back in 10 years' time and realize that it was only the humor on the 'Net that stopped the 'Net from driving us crazy.

Want to join JokeServ? Go to http://www.gibbs.com/JokeServ and register (it's the only way to join). For any other purpose, drop Gibbs a line at mgibbs@gibbs.com or call him at (800) 622-1108, Ext. 504.

*Said by Albert Einstein. Honest.

Users face software price hikes from nervous vendors

he flower child era of caring and sharing that built the Internet is over. Now it's pure business, which means' Net users face the new prospect of paying more for the privilege of connectivity.

I have written earlier about moves that telephone companies are making to charge Internet users higher service fees. This column is about another moneyrelated area poised for change: pricing system and application software.

Pricing software used to be easy. Mainframe software vendors charged fees based on processor size and number of terminals. Network operating sys-

tem vendors

based fees on a maximum number of users. PC software vendors charged fees based on . . . well, PCs. One PC, one sale; 10,000 PCs, 10,000 sales.

Users quickly figured out how to wring more value from software vendors, especially during the growth of networking. All users obviously did not use all software packages concurrently. So IS managers negotiated volume discounts and

Microsoft has every right to brand its product line for maximizing revenue, whether by technical or legal means.

used software metering to cut costs.

Meanwhile, the Internet and its related cousin, intranets, have fired the computing world's imagination. Users are eager to reap even more cost savings with applications developed with browsers and Web servers. This information access model is easy to use and requires fewer, less expensive components.

But not so fast. Reliable, secure Internet/intranet products are now coming from for-profit corporations. That's a big switch from the cooperative free spirits who developed the Internet and its standards. Products that were once low-or no-cost will now come at price.

The first major volley was recently fired by Microsoft Corp. with its new licensing policy for the \$260 workstation version of Windows NT 4.0. The license essentially prohibits its use as a Web

server operating system, forcing use of the \$1,080 NT Server version.

Web administrators had been moving from free Unix-based servers to the cheap version of NT because it's easier to use than Unix. Microsoft's move angered them and competitors, who claimed no benefits or technical differences to justify the more expensive NT version. Microsoft has vigorously contested such charges.

Idon't know why Microsoft is bothering to counter those claims. The company has every right to brand its product line for maximizing revenue, whether by technical or legal means. Regulating product use with a license agreement might seem like a new technique to Internet users, but technically crippling a product is

not.

U.S.-based software vendors, for instance, cripple encryption features of products shipped to overseas customers. It's either that or go to jail. Software vendors that sell products over the Internet frequently offer a free "lite" version. Users have to pay for the proversion to get a full set of features. Sometimes

shareware authors also use the cripple strategy, shipping a fullfunction version only if you pay.

Microsoft's decision to cripple NT Workstation via a licensing restriction is just a newtwist on an old strategy. Users were particularly vocal about this ploy because they are used to getting a lot of Internet-related software for free. Well, gang, the free ride is over.

It's over because major software vendors like Microsoft are in a bind. Sure they need to maximize revenue. But they also need to replace future lost revenue as Internet/intranet applications supplant bread-and-butter products.

One surprising change will be eliminating upgrade fees. Vendors will continuously and automatically update system and application software via the Internet. In exchange, they'll collect ongoing usage fees with electronic cash. Less headache, but bye-bye freeware.

The age of innocence for Internet users is gone. Microsoft's action is just a wake-up call, alerting us that big changes are in store for software pricing.

Buerger is a networking industry consultant and writer in Atlanta. He can be reached at dave@buerger.com.





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